

EDITORIAL

Unleash the democratic strength and unity of the masses of workers

No one can deny or conceal the fact that the wages of millions of workers, ordinary employees and toiling masses are grossly insufficient in the face of spiralling prices of food, fuel and other basic needs of the people. This is the reason why a number of proposals have been filed before the senate, the lower house and various agencies of the reactionary bureaucracy, to raise wages and other measures to alleviate the people's sufferings. It is fine that many have expressed support for the welfare of workers and toiling people, but what is more crucial is to amplify and listen to the voice of the united workers themselves, to their needs and demands.

Among the proposals are the ₱150 across-the-board wage increase bill being pushed by Senate Pres. Juan Miguel Zubiri, the bill to set the national minimum wage at ₱750 a day, along with the proposal to abrogate the "wage regionalization" law at bring back the national minimum wage standard. There are, in addition, various proposals to increase the daily minimum wage by ₱75 to ₱220 submitted before the regional wage boards.

All these proposals reflect various estimations of the true value of the labor-power of workers, or the cost of necessities for himself and his family (what Marx referred to as the cost for reproducing workers and the working class). These more or less corresponds to various standards such as the "poverty threshold" which is set by the reactionary state at a very low P8,500 monthly (or P283 per day). This is far below the P33,000 monthly (or ₱1,100 per day) "family-living wage" estimates of the group Ibon which calculates the daily cost of living of a family of five.

Any of these proposals for raising workers' wages will bring a small or substantial alleviation to the daily sufferings of workers and toiling people. What is crucial is to understand that whatever wage increase will be won not through the good-heartedness of politicians, but through the strength and unity of the masses of workers. If workers and toiling people will rely on the bureaucrat capitalist-controlled



senate and congress, they will most certainly be sold short, with any granting of wage increases used to disunite and pacify them.

The interests of big capitalists and pro-capitalist state fundamentally contradict the demand the workers and ordinary employees for wage increases. Each additional peso that a worker can bring home is one peso taken from the profit being pocketed by capitalists. Philippine cheap labor is being used by the Marcos regime mainly to attract foreign capitalist investors to the Philippines to plunder the country's resources. The struggle for higher wages is at the core of the class struggle between workers and capitalists. This is an assertion of a bigger share in the value being created by workers daily as they sell their la-

bor-power to the capitalists.

Capitalists and bourgeois economists propagate various false and twisted reasoning to weaken the workers resolve to struggle for wage increases. They insist that increasing wages is inflationary, even as the capitalists' greed for bigger profits is the real reason why prices have been going up. Big capitalists also argue that small businesses will go bankrupt if wages are increased, to conceal the reality that billionaire big capitalists rake in large amounts of profits in connivance with foreign capital.

Whether wage increases will be substantial or mere consolation for workers depend on their strength and determination to fight for their interests and rights. History has proved that they can win a bigger

amount of wage increases if they can manifest their unity by rising as one body and with tens or hundreds of thousands of workers militantly taking the streets, instead of being disunited and discordant.

It is right that the masses of workers come up with a common demand for wage increases in order that they can more effectively negotiate with the state and the capitalists. It will be to their favor that various organizations of workers unite on the amount of wage increases which they are ready to fight for. This is not enough however. More than this, the broad masses of workers must themselves unite by strengthening democracy among their ranks, by bringing together their thoughts, raising their readiness and determination to fight collectively, and on this basis, bringing them together under a common slogan. If the broad unity of workers cannot be built, they would likely not last long in their fight.

Democracy must be strengthened among the masses of workers by thoroughly consolidating and building their unions and various organizations in factories, workplaces and communities. A propaganda, education and cultural movement must be tirelessly carried out. We must multiply the number and scale of broad assemblies and consultations to serve as a forum for workers and their families to express their grievances, to serve as schools to raise their knowledge and class consciousness as workers, and as means to strengthen their collective will to fight.

Democracy among workers is the key to unleashing working class militance and energy in fighting for their just demands for wage increases. This will also be a key factor in comprehensively strengthening the revolutionary workers movement, alongside the people's resistance against imperialism, feudalism and bureaucrat capitalism, and carrying forward the national democratic movement.



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<p>Ang Bayan is published fortnightly by the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Philippines</p>	
<p> ang.bayan@cpp.ph</p>	<p> @angbayan1</p>

Slave-like wages and ballooning profits

In two decades since 1999, the net income of the 1,000 biggest companies in the Philippines grew by 946%. On the other hand, during the same period, the slave-like wages of workers rose by only 140% from ₱224 to ₱537 in the National Capital Region, where minimum wages are highest. Their net income slightly decreased in 2020 amid the most violent and one of the longest lockdowns in the world. But in 2021, these companies not only recovered, but surpassed the ₱1.455 billion income in 2019 to ₱1.817 billion.

Amid this all, worker's minimum wages remained stuck at ₱537 in the national capital. After required deductions (SSS, Phil-health, Pag-ibig), a worker brings home less than ₱500 a day. In 2022, minimum wages in NCR were ordered increased by a paltry ₱33 to ₱570. However, this was only eroded by inflation. In 2022, the real value of wages was only ₱495.

At the outset of 2023, big capitalists further boasted of huge corporate income even as wages remained low. They sang in chorus with the state in bragging about the 6.4% growth in gross domestic product, and the supposed return of the Philippine economy to the road of "high growth."

Ramon Ang's San Miguel Corporation led in bragging about how its income rose by 27% to ₱17.7 billion from January to March. The revenue of its companies rose by 9% to ₱346.7 billion. These came primarily from food and drinks manufacturing, toll charges and Petron. Moreover, Ang expects further increases in his companies' income in the coming months.

The companies of the Zobel-Ayala family also reported an increase in income by 31% to ₱10.2 billion in the same period. Companies which raked in large amount of profits include the Bank of the Philippine Islands, Ayala Land Inc. and Globe Telecom.

Meanwhile, the Sy family's SM Investments reported a 33% increase in income to ₱17.3 billion.



The Sy-owned companies are notorious for employing contractual workers who receive unlivable wages and minimal benefits, if any.

Together with the rise in corporate income, the biggest compradors accumulated even greater wealth. The top executives of these companies receive up to ₱2.6 million per month, more or less 325 times the monthly income of wage earners. In 2020-2022, the wealth of the five biggest bourgeois compradors rose by ₱1 billion.

According to the Ibon Foundation, the proposed ₱150 across the board increase in daily wages is equivalent to only 12%-14% of the profits of the biggest, medium-sized and small companies, even if based on the relatively low net income of these companies in 2022. These enterprises employ the largest number of wage earners (88%), as opposed to the small workforce of micro-businesses.

Contrary to the reasoning of capitalists, big enterprises employ the most number of wage earners (49.3%), compared to only 12% who work in micro-businesses, which will need government subsidies.

On the other hand, a national minimum wage of ₱750 a day will be equivalent to 59% of the entire net income of all establishments based on its low income in 2020. This income already rose by 221% in 2021, and are set to increase further this 2023. An increase in national minimum wages will have the most minimal impact on big companies (equivalent to only 36% of their income).

Ibon said any implementation of wage increase will have a "second order effect" as workers will have more to spend for food and other services which are the source of income of many in the informal and agricultural sector. AB

Moro people receive the lowest wage

In the entire country, the majority Moro workers in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) receive the lowest wages. The region's latest order set workers' daily minimum wages at ₱306 to ₱341. Cotabato City workers receive the highest wage where agricultural workers get ₱316 a day while industry and service workers get ₱341. In other places, agricultural workers receive ₱306 while non-agricultural workers receive ₱316.

After deductions, a worker brings home only ₱227 per day or only ₱5,550 per month. This is a far cry from the ₱1,947 daily living wage in the region in April, the highest in the entire country.

The last time the Department of Labor and Employment implemented a wage increase was in July 2022 when workers were given meager ₱16 increase per day. (The highest wage increase during the same period was ₱50 in other regions.)

Based on state statistics, 73% of BARMM's 15-year old and above population (3.02 million) are in the labor force. A large majority of the wage earners here work in commercial plantations and fisheries. More often, they receive wages below the minimum. January data show the

unemployment rate in the region pegged at a low 3.2%, while underemployment stands at 10.4%.

The Moro people do not feel the claimed growth of the gross regional domestic product which stood at 6.61% in 2022 and 7.5% growth in 2021.

The Moro people are severely burdened by skyrocketing inflation rate, especially in food. Food inflation in Tawi-tawi, Basilan and Sulu is higher than the national average. Costs of basic services also remain high. In fact, the BARMM holds the record of the largest income decline in terms of the real value of wage in

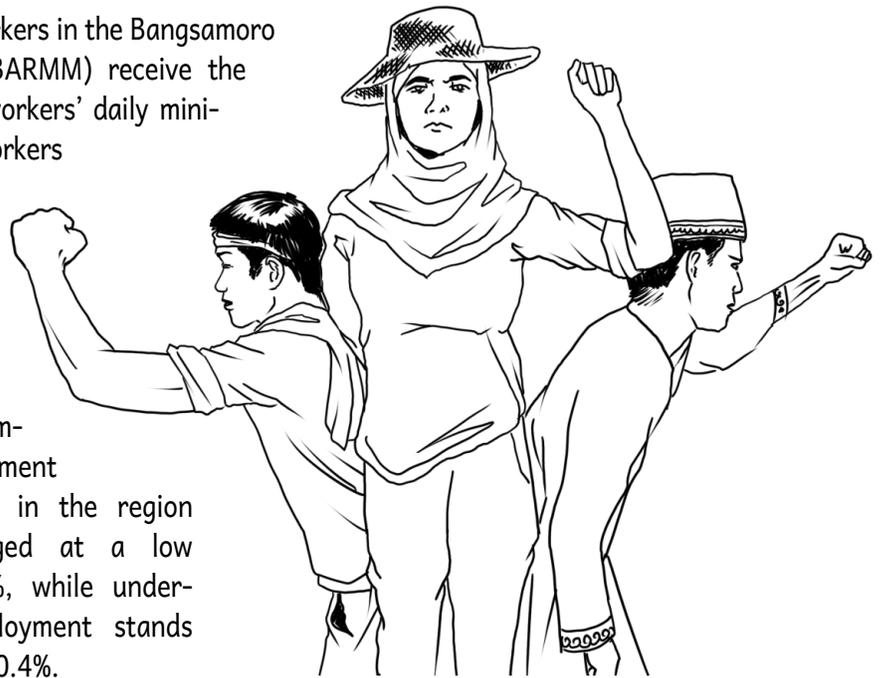
the last 34 years.

The real value of wages in the region has declined by 52% since 1989 due to high inflation and slow legislation of wage increase. According to Ibon, the Moro people will need a minimum wage increase of ₱370 to recover the eroded value of their wage due to inflation.

Next to BARMM, minimum wage in Region IV-B or Mimaropa (₱329-₱355), Region IX or Zamboanga Peninsula (₱338-₱351) and Region III (₱344-₱460) are the lowest.

Capitalists have succeeded in keeping minimum wages in BARMM at a low level the using the Wage Rationalization Act. Presently, there are 16 regional tripartite boards which set the different minimum wage and increases in the country. On paper, wage increases are ordered based on the cost of living and inflation. However, capitalists (who dominate these boards) always succeed on keeping wages low and perpetuate the slave-like conditions of workers.

Big multinationals and transnationals use this system of disparity in wages to locate their factories and businesses in regions where minimum wages are lower in order to pocket bigger profits.



Wyeth Philippines workers oppose mass lay-offs

THE WYETH PHILIPPINES Progressive Workers Union filed a Notice of Strike (NOS) before the National Conciliation and Mediation Board 4-A on May 20. Workers plan to go on strike to demand Wyeth-Nestle to reinstate 145 workers terminated in its factory in Canlubang, Laguna. The company's plan to lay-off workers first came out in March.

According to the union, 10 union officials including its president, 14 supervisors, a manager and other company employees were told not to work last May 18. The company rationalized the mass lay-off as part of "cost-cutting, automation and production line consolidation."

Wyeth-Nestle is not losing money, in fact, had earnings of up to ₱5.8 billion in 2021, and pocketed a net income of more than ₱2.7 billion.

Earlier, workers held successive activities to protest the planned lay-off. On May 16, the union held a program after their shift outside the factory. Workers also conducted consecutive mass meetings from May 10 to May 12.

AFP pensions burden the nation

Like leeches, the huge fascist machinery of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) sucks dry the people's funds, not only in the purchase of increasing number of and bigger arms and equipment, but also to cover the pension of its butcher elements after their "service."

Combatant and non-combatant alike, members of the military bureaucracy do not contribute a single centavo to their pension funds. The entire fund is taken from the national treasury. This is in addition to the maintenance costs of active elements which eat up the biggest share in the budget of the Department of National Defense. This is in contrast to deductions from the salary of public and private employees are deduction as "contribution" to the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) and Social Security System (SSS).

Soldiers' pensions are tax-free. They start receiving the pension at age 56, or nine years earlier than the retirement age of other government employees. Their pension is also based on the salary of the next higher rank upon their retirement. This promotes competition for promotion and a race to ranking positions, especially among generals.

Huge leak in the national budget

The needed pension ballooned severalfolds after the former Duterte regime doubled the base pay of the military and police as bribe for their loyalty. The few thousand new soldiers which compose the established combat, artillery and other battalions recruited by Duterte on the promise of high salary, special privileges and pensions add up to the nation's spending.

At present, the lowest official (2nd lieutenant) receives a net salary of ₱43,829 per month. This is a far cry from the ₱30,742.27 net entry salary of nurses after deducting required contributions to GSIS, Philhealth and Pag-ibig. A teacher's net pay is even far lower standing at ₱23,465.50. A new soldier recruit which only trained for six months receives a higher salary of ₱29,668. (In comparison, a worker's regular wage which stands at ₱8,902 is ut-

terly grievous.)

Officials of the reactionary state admit that the increasing pension funds of the AFP is unsustainable. To cover the pension budget of the military and police and other uniformed personnel, ₱9.6 trillion or ₱800 billion yearly is needed in the next 20 years. According to the Department of Finance, the state will need to borrow an additional ₱3.43 trillion up to 2030, 25% higher than the current level.

The agency suggests deducting 5% to 9% from the salary of soldiers, police, coast guard, prison and personnel of police academies to fund its own pension. (The GSIS deducts about 10% from the gross pay of other government employees per month, while the SSS deducts about 5% from workers earning less than the minimum.)

The agency also suggests to remove the automatic promotion to a rank higher of retirees and add a year to its retirement age. It will cover all active and incoming uniformed elements.

At present, the pension of the lowest ranking soldier is ₱40,000 per month. This is three times bigger than the ₱13,600 monthly pension of a government employee and nine times bigger than the ₱4,528 a worker receives.

Members of the AFP threatened to vehemently oppose to proposed reforms to the military's pension funds. Retired generals, who are not covered by the proposal, were first to oppose this. Instead of contributing, they want an increase to their pension from 85% to 90% of their base pay.

This does not yet include the bribe given to retired generals after their stint its "pasalubong" system and the anomalous military contracts which their private companies and controlled criminal syndicates monopolize.



“Renewable energy” in Ilocos destroys people’s livelihood and environment

Democratic and revolutionary forces in the provinces of Ilocos and La Union fear the widespread and continued influx of foreign companies investing in different “renewable” energy projects in the region. Presently, nine wind, solar and hydropower plants operate in the region. In addition, 13 similar projects have been approved and are being developed. Seven already operating and eight under construction are found in Ilocos Norte. There are still two applications for windpower projects in the province.

Renewable energy is electricity derived from solar, wind, hydro, ocean, thermal and geothermal resources. Aside from being unlimited, renewable energy is cleaner compared to energy produced from fossil fuels (coal, petroleum, and natural gas) which cause widescale environmental destruction and global warming.

Though touted as “clean,” the construction of renewable energy facilities causes widespread destruction of the environment and livelihood of the masses. One of the renewable energy projects being constructed is the Ilocos Norte Solar and Wind Power Plant in Burgos, Bangui, Pasuquin and Vintar. It covers 2,346 hectares of mountains and plains where thousands of minorities and peasants live.

The project seized ancestral

lands where huge wind turbines and energy storage facilities were constructed. In a huge part of the forest, trees were cleared, land was flattened and wide roads constructed to give access to the wind turbines, big trucks and other construction equipment. Initial reports show that 2,984 trees were cut and 5,143 others were uprooted to pave the way for the project.

The project endangers the lives and livelihood of residents who have long been vulnerable to landslide. It also destroys watersheds and the natural flow of water.

Beyond land, these renewable energy projects will also cover the region’s oceans. The BuhaWind Energy Project of the Danish company Copenhagen Energy and the Petro-Green Energy of the Yuchiengco family will cover the rich municipal fishing grounds in Burgos, Bangui and Pagudpud. This will divest livelihood from hundreds of small fisherfolk who do not have the capacity to fish beyond the site of the planned windmills and electric cables.

Anti-environment investment

The biggest bourgeois compradors partner with foreign companies in pushing for renewable energy projects. They ride on the call for a cleaner energy production which supposedly aims to significantly reduce use of destructive and “dirty” energy. In truth, they continue to pour capital into dirty energy, and only invest in renewable energy projects to generate additional profits.

Among them is the Ayala Family, who has huge investments in the local subsidiary of Shell, one of the biggest fossil fuel companies in the world. Among the investors in renewable energy projects are the Aboitizes, Gokongweis, as well as Ramon Ang and Manny Pangilinan, who have their own big coal, petroleum and natural gas plants, are investing in renewable energy projects.

In Ilocos Norte, they collude with the Marcos family, through its provincial governor Matthew Marcos-Manotoc, son of Sen. Imee Marcos. The Marcos are now marketing Ilocos Norte as Southeast Asia’s “renewable energy center” to attract billions of big capitalist investments.

Towards this, the Marcos regime made renewable energy investment a priority. In its development plan for 2022-2028, it identified the energy sector as “key to economic development.” It fast-tracked the granting of contracts to 41 companies during its first six months in office.

In addition, the Department of Energy amended the Implementing Rules and Regulations of the Renewable Energy Act of 2008 last November 2022 to allow 100% foreign investment in renewable energy. Prior to the new rules, foreign ownership was limited to 40%, as stipulated in the 1987 constitution. AB



NPA mounts five consecutive armed actions

The New People's Army (NPA) mounted five consecutive armed actions in Panay and Kalinga provinces from May 2 to May 8. These form part of the all-out effort of NPA units to vigorously fight and deter the all-out-war of the reactionary government against the masses and the revolutionary movement.

A harassment operation was first staged by the NPA-Southern Panay (Napoleon Tumulog Command) on May 2 at 10 in the evening in Barangay Luyang, Sibalom, Antique, where they attacked AFP troops stationed in the CAA detachment.

On May 3, the NPA-Kalinga (Lejo Cawilan Command) ambushed an operating unit of the 50th IB in Sitio Agod, Barangay Poswoy, Balbalan, Kalinga. Two enemy troopers were killed. A Red fighter, Baliwag "Ka Bombo" Buccol, was martyred in the said operation.

On May 5, the NPA mounted punitive actions against the Atrila Builders Inc in Barangay Cabunsaan, Leon, Iloilo, just two hours away from a CAA detachment in Barangay Maliao. Four pieces of equipment were paralyzed including

a backhoe, a grader, a truck and a roller which costs P900,000 in all. The company is notorious for abusing workers by not paying them enough and being subjected to inhumane working conditions.

On May 6, Red fighters blasted troops of the Philippine Army who responded to the incident and planned to retaliate against the NPA. Using command-detonated explosives (CDX), the NPA ambushed one of the three vans transporting soldiers. The vehicle turned on its side towards a cliff. As a result, the military troops withdrew and cancelled their planned operations in the area.

In the morning of May 8, a unit of the NPA fired at a paramilitary detachment in Barangay Igococ, Sibalom, Antique. AB

Pandi housing gains water access

URBAN POOR GROUP Kadamay rejoiced on May 6 for getting water access in a BFP Housing in Pandi, Bulacan. The group greeted residents who untiringly and collectively fought for their right to basic social services.

According to the group, BFP Pabahay residents in Pandi, Bulacan waited for six years to get water access in their housing units. The group emphasized that the lack of basic social services such as water and electricity in public housing is a prevalent problem. This has forced urban poor residents to pay higher than the usual fees just to stay in housing units. Residents covered by decent housing grants have long been asserting that it is everyone's right to have access to sufficient supply of water, electricity, education and livelihood.

Political cases junked

CONSECUTIVE LEGAL VICTORIES were achieved by activists and political prisoners in the past weeks.

The Bangued Regional Trial Court Branch 2 quashed the warrant of arrest issued against the so called "Northern Luzon 7" on May 11. The court said that the seven were not named by the "survivors" of an ambush by the people's army on October 2022 at Sitio Kutop, Barangay Gacab, Malibcong, Abra.

The seven are composed of activists and progressives Jennifer Awingan, Sarah Abellon-Alikes, Stephen Tauli, Windel Bolinget, Lucia Lourdes Gimenes, Nino Joseph Oconer, and Florence Kang.

On May 12, a Muntinlupa City court acquitted former senator Leila de Lima of her second drug case. The case's primary witness Rafael Ragos recanted his allegations in 2022 and said he was merely forced to lie.

Imminent destruction by foreign energy projects in Bicol

EXPANSIVE AND DESTRUCTIVE energy projects are set to be constructed in Bicol. Two of these are plans to explore geothermal energy or energy produced by the earth's internal heat, spearheaded by the Premier Geoexcel Inc. in Camarines Norte and Camarines Sur. Copenhagen Infrastructure New Markets Fund (CINMF) also plans to construct a "wind farm" in the same provinces. These are being marketed as alternative sources of electricity or renewable energy but there was no mention of concomitant widespread landgrabbing and imminent environmental destruction.

CINMF's project in Bicol is the largest among the three projects subsumed by the first ever contract in renewable energy to be owned 100% by foreign investors. The two remaining projects were set to be built in Northern Samar, Pangasinan, and La Union.

The projects include the construction of roads that will drill through and plow over the hearts of mountains and communities of Camarines Norte and Camarines Sur, certain to highlight the uprooting of trees and land excavations. Residents fear widespread landgrabbing, disruption of communities as well as physical and economic dislocation.

Like other geothermal and similar projects, these will produce destructive "waste materials" or toxic sludge that will poison watersheds in its vicinity.

71.3%



of "newly created jobs" in March are **self-employed** (2.3 million), **informal** (1.7 million) and **employed as housekeepers** (372,000).

2.7 million

hectares of farmlands for 113 million Filipinos.

On the other hand, there are 10 million hectares of farmlands in Thailand, rice exporting country, for 70 million of its citizens.



47% increase in **credit card debt** (personal loan).

of Filipinos to **P410 billion** due to increase of inflation and the supposed post-pandemic spending.



6 weeks

of military exercises codename **Kasangga** by **Australia and Filipino soldiers** from **May 15 up to June 23**.

This forms part of the US' measures to strengthen its presence and its allied countries in Asia.

₱1 billion

to be allotted by the regime for **₱2,000/sack** of "biofertilizer",



as a supposed alternative to the urea fertilizer which currently costs **₱1,100/sack**. It is feared that this is another huge scam.

613

Filipino migrants registered to work in **Sudan** in 2016,

More than half of them are now stranded in Egypt after civil war broke out in the country.

₱250 million

needed to repair the anomalous **Ungka flyover**,

a road in Iloilo City which sunk and was closed down two months after it was inaugurated in 2022

75 years

anniversary of the **Al Nakba** (The Disaster) on May 15,

the event wherein more than **800,000 Palestinians** were **violently evicted** from their communities to give way for the establishment of the state of Israel.

Abduction and summary killings of civilians and non combatants

The military reportedly killed three civilians presented as NPA combatants in a fake encounter last week in Visayas. They are the most recent among those summarily killed in the brutal pursuit for "strategic victory" over the NPA.

In Samar, families call for justice for the killing of chainsaw helpers Joel Balading Recare and Oscar Alastoy by the police in Sitio Ibaluw, Barangay Sangay, Palapag, Northern Samar on May 5. Both were not members of the NPA, the families assert. They were residents of Barangay Capacujan and were only there for employment. Even the barangay captain and other barangay officials corroborated this. Their loved ones' anguish was further aggravated because it took the police more than 24 hours to bring their bodies to the funeral parlor.

In Bohol, activist and organizer Arthur Lucenario was held by the 47th IB for one month before he was presented killed in an "encounter" on May 12 in Barangay Tabuan, Antequera. He was abducted on April 14 in San Miguel

City. His remains bear marks of severe torture.

Meanwhile, the revolutionary forces in Bohol reported the killing of Manuel Tinio (Ka Dodie), peace consultant of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines. Tinio was shot seven times on the night of April 14 while he was driving a motorcycle along the boundary between San Miguel and Ubay. The military planted a caliber .45 and claimed "firing back" to conceal the heinous act.

Illegal arrests. The 94th IB captured and forcibly disappeared farmer Allan Ramos in Sityo Dingalon, Hilamonan, Kabankalan City in the afternoon of May 11. The military claims Ramos was arrested after an alleged encounter with the NPA. In fact, soldiers strafed the family's home before they abducted

Ramos.

Meanwhile, the team searching for two forcibly disappeared IP advocates Dexter Capuyan and Gene Roz Jamil de Jesus determined recently that the two were forcefully boarded in two different vehicles by agents of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group. They were last seen on April 28 in Taytay, Rizal.

Bombings. Two consecutive bombings and strafing operations were launched by the 203rd IBde in Oriental Mindoro on April 29 and May 8. The military first bombarded the mountains in the boundary between Roxas and Mansalay on April 29. The bombings were part of their "test firing" in the said area. The bombing caused distress to the 10,870 residents in the area.

On May 8, bombing and strafing harassed the residents of Barangay Tawas, Bongabong and Barangay Malo, Bansud. It targeted the residents' huts and banana fields. **AB**



Paperland workers protest CBA nego delay. Workers of Quezon City company Paperland Inc staged a picket in front of their factory on May 16-17 to express dismay over the continued delay of their negotiation for a new Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) with the management. The negotiations were supposedly held in December 2022 to discuss wage increase, union rights, health and safety, and others.

Increase wages in Southern Tagalog now. Various labor organizations held another picket in front of Calabarzon's regional wage board office in Laguna on May 10 to demand a ₱750 minimum wage in the region. This was response to the still unaddressed petition submitted on March 27 by the Metal Workers Alliance of the Philippines (MWAP) and the Workers Initiative for Wage Increase Alliance Southern Tagalog (WIN4WIN) for wage increase.

Students condemn "ROTC Games". Students held a barricade inside the University of the Philippines-Cebu on May 5 to block the planned orientation of the Armed Forces of the Philippines for the cadets of the Reserve

Officers' Training Corps (ROTC). The orientation is related to the planned ROTC games in the entire Visayas. As a result of the barricade, the Commission on Higher Education and the AFP were forced to transfer the activity to Cebu Technological University in Cebu City.

Drivers' protest in Iloilo and Bacolod. More than 100 drivers from Iloilo City and Bacolod City staged a picket in front of the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board Region VI in Iloilo City to halt the cancellation of jeepney drivers' individual franchise. The LTRFB Region VI's policies push for the consolidation of franchise and prohibition of operation of jeepneys by individuals. Drivers also held a picket at the Bacolod Government Center on May 8 to demand an answer from the city's mayor on the same concern.

Junk G7. Activists from the ILPS-Philippines, Bayan and other progressive organizations staged a picket in Quezon City to call for the junking of the G7 on May 20. The protest was part of the International Day of Action Against the G7 which was held in time for the G7 meeting in Hiroshima, Japan.

Revolutionary forces commemorate Ibrahim Kaypakkaya's 50 death anniversary

Revolutionary forces in different parts of the world commemorated the 50th death anniversary of Communist Party of Turkey founder Ibrahim Kaypakkaya on May 20. Like many revolutionaries in the Philippines, Kaypakkaya was inspired by the upsurge of the socialist revolution in China led by Chairman Mao.

Activities commemorating his martyrdom were held in major cities of Turkey like Istanbul, Izmir, Çanakkale and Ankara. Organizations mounted marches, streamer hanging, mass meetings and discussions. Similar activities were held in Rojava, regional center of the Kurdistan people's struggle for national liberation. Marches were also launched by organizations in Europe such as Germany, Austria, London and Paris.

In his youth, Kaypakkaya founded the Party in Turkey. He ardently studied Marxism-Leninism-Maoism and applied the universal principles to the particular conditions of their country. He led the anti-imperialist and socialist propaganda and education among the people of Turkey. He led the formation of the Workers' and Peasants' Liberation Army or the TIKKO to carry out the revolutionary armed struggle.



Fifty years ago today, the fascist reactionaries captured, tortured and snuffed the life out of Kaypakkaya in the vain attempt to quell the rising cause of the workers and other oppressed classes in Turkey. Instead, Kaypakkaya's revolutionary beginnings continue to spread and give inspiration to the people of Turkey and elsewhere in the world.

The Communist Party of the Philippines, New People's Army and all revolutionary forces in the Philippines expressed solidarity to the revolutionary forces of Turkey on the occasion of the remembrance of the martyrdom of its founding leader.

According to the CPP, as billions of workers, peasants and oppressed people suffer in both capitalist and semicolonial and semifeudal countries, and face the threat of imperialist war and ruin worldwide, Kaypakkaya's immortal memory will continue to serve as inspiration to workers, peasants and other oppressed peoples to wage revolutionary struggle for national and social liberation and socialism. AB

AFP fake encounters in Bicol

NOT LESS THAN three fake encounters were staged by the 9th ID and police forces in Bicol's provinces this May to project the Marcos regime's victory in decimating the armed movement in the region.

Latest among these is the fake report of an encounter in the boundary of Garchitorena and Lagonoy towns in Camarines Sur in the first week of May. The military also issued fake reports of encounters in Masbate and Camarines Norte. Because of the military's failure to corner units of the people's army in the region into decisive and tooth-and-nail engagement, the fascist military and police aim its terrorist violence against the civilian populace.

Meanwhile in Sorsogon, state forces released a fake report on May 6 claiming to have "arrested" former Red fighter Marlon Macabuhay, who actually surrendered on April 3. Contrary to the state's promises of "assistance and reintegration," Macabuhay was imprisoned in Gubat police station even in the absence of any legal charges.