

EDITORIAL

Wage people's war against Marcos' martial law in the countryside

The successive "insurgency-free" declarations of Marcos' officials and the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) in recent weeks are part of a grand disinformation and psywar campaign. Its aim is to create a false image that the armed resistance of the Filipino people has been crushed or is about to be defeated and that there is no more force that can defend against the fascist and exploitative ruling classes.

The AFP is making the foolish brag that the NPA is left with only "one weakened guerrilla front." It makes repeated empty claims that it will now focus its attention on "external threats." These words are belied by the AFP's own actions as it carries out relentless large-scale offensives in all corners of the country. Billions of pesos are being squandered by the AFP in daily helicopter flights, bombings, shellings, feeding and paying the salaries of its tens of thousands of troops, in their futile attempt to crush the guerrilla units of the New People's Army (NPA). Its "integrated territorial defense system" plan, which in-

volves the mass recruitment in the CAFGU, continues to focus on the militarization of villages and communities.

These declarations deceive the public and obscure Marcos' imposition of martial law in the countryside. While claiming that "there are no more NPA," tens of thousands of troops remain in the countryside, stationed in battalion headquarters in guerrilla zones and deployed in thousands of detachments in villages and communities, sowing fear and terrorism among the people.

Despite its propaganda declarations, martial law remains enforced

in interior barangays in Ilocos Norte, Abra, Kalinga, Cagayan, Isabela, Bulacan, Aurora, Laguna, Quezon, Rizal, Oriental Mindoro, Occidental Mindoro, Camarines Norte, Albay, Sorsogon, Masbate, Capiz, Aklan, Iloilo, Negros Occidental, Negros Oriental, Northern Samar, Eastern Samar, Samar, Surigao del Sur, Surigao del Norte, Agusan del Sur, Agusan del Norte, Bukidnon, Davao del Norte, Lanao del Norte, Saranggani, South Cotabato, and other provinces.

The military rule and war of suppression being waged in the countryside by Marcos and the AFP are characterized by wanton trampling of democratic rights and violations of international humanitarian law. Rural villages are under military occupation or hamletted by military forces who require people to pass through checkpoints and sign logbooks, prohibit peas-



ants from working in the fields, impose curfews, limit rice and food purchases, control commerce, and implement other measures that restrict the movement of people.

The people have intense hatred against soldiers lording over and controlling their villages. These fascist soldiers often abet the use of drugs, pornography and prostitution, and serve as a harmful influence on the youth in the communities. These soldiers frequently engage in all-night drinking and fire their guns indiscriminately when they get drunk. Soldiers of the AFP are involved in increasing incidents of abuse and rape of women, as well as flirting or having affairs with married women.

People are forcibly recruited to the paramilitary CAFGU, civilians are compelled to guide soldiers in combat operations, forced to render unpaid labor and service to soldiers' detachments, such as constructing fences, gathering firewood, fetching water for bathing, and others.

Peasants are relentlessly subjected to house-to-house searches, harassment, summons on the pretext of "clearing their names" or "surrendering." There are rising number of cases of abduction and

extrajudicial killings, massacres, unjust arrests, torture of civilians, and others rights violations. Howitzers are positioned near homes. Aerial bombs are dropped aimed near communities and fields, endangering the lives and destroying the property and livelihood of civilians.

The aim of the "insurgency-free" declarations and the imposition of martial law is to break the people's will to fight and defend their rights and livelihood. Military rule in the villages and communities serves the plan of their landlord and comprador bourgeois masters to grab land and evict peasants and indigenous people, and to pave the way for the destructive operations of mining, plantations, and infrastructure projects.

Millions suffer from all forms of




oppression under the war of suppression of the Marcos regime. Moreover, they suffer from Marcos' gross neglect of the welfare of millions of survivors of recent calamities. They will suffer even more in the coming year amid the budget cuts in health and education, and the increase in the budget for fascism (including the additional budget for the soldiers and the NTF-Elcac) and corruption (including the huge budget for the DPWH and Marcos' anomalous infrastructure projects).

The severe oppression, suppression, and suffering inflicted on the Filipino people by the US-Marcos regime further strengthens their determination to struggle and defend their rights and to fight for their aspirations for justice, genuine democracy, and freedom. By sowing terrorism against the peasant and indigenous masses, Marcos is teaching them that there is no more effective way to fight back than to take up arms and join the New People's Army.

In the face of intensifying oppression and suffering, the Filipino people, together with the NPA, are determined to intensify the people's war. They are determined to advance the armed struggle and launch tactical offensives, especially against the most hated fascist troops responsible for extrajudicial killings, massacres, and all forms of terrorism. This, along with advancing the broad anti-fascist and anti-feudal mass struggles, is the only effective way of defending the people and meeting their growing calls for justice and an end of martial law in their areas.

As we commemorate the upcoming anniversary of the Party, let us reaffirm our commitment to spread the flames of the armed struggle to crush the fascist rule and to heighten the protracted people's war. With the unwavering spirit of struggle and determination to fight, it is certain that the revolutionary armed struggle will not be defeated, but will instead advance.




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 ang.bayan@cpp.ph



No ceasefire this Christmas season

THE COMMUNIST PARTY of the Philippines (CPP) and New People's Army (NPA) cannot declare a ceasefire this Christmas amid the Marcos regime's relentless war of repression, offensive military operations, and the implementation of martial law in the countryside.

Desperate to crush the people's struggle, the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) is currently conducting military operations nationwide against the Party and NPA. To boost its public image, the AFP has intensified its disinformation campaign to convince the public of the absurd line that only a "single weakened" NPA guerrilla front is left, which is belied by their own actions. Millions of pesos are currently being squandered on large-scale force deployments and operations in all regions nationwide.

The situation pushes the NPA to firmly advance armed struggle and launch tactical offensives especially against the most despised fascist units responsible for extrajudicial killings, massacres, and all forms of terrorism. This is to defend the people and address their growing clamor for justice and an end to martial law in their areas.

In preparation for the upcoming 56th anniversary of the Party, NPA units and local peasant mass organizations in the countryside are busy preparing meetings and small gatherings to celebrate recent victories, assess weaknesses and strengths, and reaffirm their resolve to launch bigger struggles next year.

KM members rally in Manila

MEMBERS OF KABATAANG Makabayan (KM) marched on December 16 along Recto Avenue in Manila to commemorate their 60th anniversary and the second year of Ka Jose Maria Sison's martyrdom. Amid the crowd, KM members boldly chanted a call to the people to join the people's war.

In a brief program, KM called to overthrow Marcos and Duterte in the face of their bureaucrat-capitalist jostling. They condemned the regime for squandering millions of pesos on terrorist and fascist campaigns against the youth and the people while neglecting social services.



In the past two weeks, KM chapters from various universities and communities in Metro Manila, Baguio City, Quezon, Cebu, Iloilo, and other provinces launched Oplan Pinta-Oplan Dikit (graffiti and poster pasting campaign operations) to celebrate their anniversary on November 30. Meanwhile, KM-Central Luzon released a special issue of *Kalayaan*.

In its activities, KM resounded the call for the youth to join the New People's Army and frustrate the US-Marcos regime's attempt to decimate the revolutionary movement nationwide.

Tribute to Ka Joma. On December 15, the family, comrades, and friends of Comrade Jose Maria Sison launched activities in Utrecht, the Netherlands to mark the second year of his martyrdom. The JMS Legacy Foundation headed the event with the theme "The Guide: Recalling and Continuing the Legacy of Jose Maria Sison." The activity was streamed live to allow comrades from the Philippines to participate.



Bring Duterte to justice, hold Marcos accountable! Progressive organizations and democratic parties gathered at Liwasang Bonifacio in Manila on December 10 to mark the 76th International Human Rights Day. They exposed the dire human rights situation in the country under two consecutive regimes. Protesters burned an effigy called "Mamamayan vs Kasamaan at Kadiliman" (Citizen vs Evil and Darkness) symbolizing the corruption of Marcos and Duterte. Similar actions took place in Bicol, Cebu, Iloilo, Davao, and Baguio.

Impeach Sara!, cries youth at Quezon City rally. Members of Anakbayan in Quezon City protested on December 8 to call for the ouster of Sara Duterte as vice president. They also demanded the accountability of former president Rodrigo Duterte for his crimes against the youth and the people, and held Ferdinand Marcos Jr responsible for his inept and corrupt governance.

DepEd official in NCR sued. Public schools teachers in NCR picketed before the Ombudsman's office in Quezon City on December 10 and filed an administrative case against Superintendent Rita E. Riddle. The case of grave misconduct and gross abuse of authority was filed against Riddle following her harassment and intimidation of teachers. The case is based on her harassment of over 200 teachers' protest on May 15.

Youth movement in Central Luzon perseveres

In the Central Luzon plains and mountains, the revolutionary youth movement is intensifying its efforts to overcome weaknesses, rectify errors, and further strengthen the region's Kabataang Makabayan (KM) ranks. They are striving to reach the broadest youth as possible and forge them as revolutionaries, New People's Army (NPA) fighters and commanders, and Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) cadres.

KM-CL members reaffirmed their plan to advance and lead the revolutionary youth movement in the region. They re-examined and reviewed the Philippine Society and Revolution (PSR), the basic documents of the KM and the Party, the writings and teachings of KM founding chair Jose Maria Sison, and the extensive principles of the universal theory of Marxism-Leninism-Maoism. They have drawn knowledge and inspiration from these to assess their own experiences and gain revolutionary lessons and theory.

In October, KM-CL reported that its members in Pampanga gathered to pledge before the flag and reaffirm their commitment and loyalty to the organization. They refreshed their wholehearted adherence to the line, program, and policies of the KM, promotion of the revolutionary youth-student move-

ment in the province, contribution to the armed struggle, and the struggle for the national-democratic revolution to ultimate victory. They then participated in a collective tilling of the land.

The life Ka Mabel dedicated

Youth martyrs inspired KM-Central Luzon members in their efforts to revitalize. Among these is Azase Galang (Ka Mabel), who died on June 26 in a defensive battle in Pantabangan, Nueva Ecija.

Ka Mabel from a young age knew the face of fascism. Military agents of the US-Arroyo regime abducted and tortured her father. Military agents also abducted her mother, Maria Elena "Cha" Pampoza, in 2022.

She began her activism in the youth movement in 2016. She played a key role in establishing a youth association in Tarlac Province

and was elected its president in 2020.

In her fourth year of Public Administration course at Tarlac State University, she decided to become a full-time activist in Central Luzon and abandoned her dream of becoming a lawyer. She became KM regional secretary. In July 2023, she decided to become an NPA fighter.

"Behind her serious face lies a gentle heart always ready to give time and effort for the masses. I will never forget her," said Echo, a student she recruited in Tarlac, who is now a new full-fledged KM member. Ka Mabel's life of sacrifice and dedication inspired many young people like Echo.

The resolve of Ka Aya

Ka Aya is one of the region's current KM organizers. After a few years of studying in a state university, the country's rotten education system became clear to her. Studying Philippine society made her understand the roots of these problems.

In a few months of activism, Ka Aya experienced the state's fascism against youth defending the people's rights. Instead of being discouraged, she became more determined to stand firm.

Continuously immersing deeper into the ranks of the toiling masses, she understood the struggles of different sectors of society. She fully embraced the people's revolutionary movement.

A few years later, she decided to dedicate her full time as a youth organizer. She gave up her bourgeois and comfortable life. She knew there was no bright future for youth like her as long as the oppression and exploitation of the people continued.

From Kalayaan, November 2024, KM-Central Luzon.

AB



Raha work: a very challenging livelihood

Raha work ("pagraraha") or preparing firewood for sale is very difficult and dangerous. Despite this, it is the only source of income for many Manobo natives the military evicted in Surigao del Sur since 2019. They cannot return to their ancestral lands that are occupied by the military and taken over by large mining companies and commercial plantations.

In raha work, trees for firewood are chainsawed into log pieces. It is hauled home for chopping and bundling. When transporting, especially when far from flat land, logs

are rolled downhill (bar-down) and carried uphill (bar-up) if no carabao is available.

"Dangerous as it is, the earnings are very low," says Anie, a Manobo

who lives on producing raha. Anie was already once run over by a boulder while going down to where he rolled down his logs. He fell tumbling down several times. He once suffered a head injury and almost lost consciousness.

Chopped wood must follow the standard 22-inch length and a match box equivalent of girth. They are bundled by fives and stacked on piles of 50 bundles each. They sell one pile for ₱100-₱300, depending on the type of wood. Kulipapa or Dangula wood is the most expensive.

Traders buy Kulipapa firewood at ₱6/tie and sell it to consumers at ₱12/tie. The raha worker spends for the ₱500 chainsaw rental, three liters of gasoline, one bottle of guide bar oil and 2T oil, and one box of "tiebox" (plastic straw rope enough for 40 piles). With this, they can make 48 cuts of 10-inch diameter logs.

Anie says he has a family of 10, with five of them studying. His weekly earnings of ₱3,000 is extremely insufficient for their needs, not even for rice alone. They consume three gantas (1 ganta=2.5 kg) per day, at ₱145/ganta or ₱435/day.

Like Anie, many Manobo, especially the elders, deeply long to return to their community of origin where they can freely avail of the benefits of nature, having food they do not need to buy. They can grow plants for consumption and long-term crops for livelihood. In their current resettlement, food is an expensive commodity. They receive no support from any reactionary government agency. They are landless and forced to engage in jobs like preparing raha and other small means of livelihood.

AB



Justice for the displaced people of Marawi City!

CHURCH PEOPLE AND youth held a prayer-protest action on December 14 in solidarity with the displaced families of Marawi City who have yet to return to their city. They called for the immediate return of 5,000 families who will face eviction from their temporary shelters by the end of the year. The land where they were resettled after the Duterte regime pulverized the city in 2017 is under a contract between the government and private landowners that is set to expire. They demand justice, investigation into the state's response and rehabilitation of their city.

They also call for recognition and accountability, along with compensation for human rights violations that occurred during the attack and the rehabilitation process.

Human trafficking victim Mary Jane Veloso returns to the Philippines

HUMAN TRAFFICKING VICTIM Mary Jane Veloso has returned to the Philippines after nearly 15 years of detention in Indonesia. She was welcomed by her children, parents, lawyer, and supporters from Migrante Philip-pines and the Save Mary Jane Task Force at the airport in the early morning hours of De-cember 18. She was allowed to hug her chil-dren and siblings upon entering the women's correctional facility in Mandaluyong City. They are calling on the Marcos regime to grant Veloso clemency or pardon and allow her to return to her family.

Like millions of Filipino migrants, Veloso's story began when she decided to leave the country in 2010 to give her two children a bet-ter future. Recruiter Maria Kristina Sergio promised her a job as a domestic helper in Malaysia where she was told her job had been taken and was promised a new one.

While waiting, Sergio told her to go to Indonesia and gave her a suitcase for the trip. Unbeknownst to her, the suitcase con-cealed 2.6 kilos of heroin (a banned drug), which was discovered by police upon her ar-rival in Yogyakarta, Indonesia. She was im-mediately arrested and swiftly sentenced to death by firing squad on April 19, 2015.

Through relentless campaigning by Mi-grante and progressive organizations and lawyers supporting her family, Veloso's exe-cution was stopped in 2015.

Veloso represents the plight and struggle of many Filipino migrants who, while over-seas, face exploitation and abuse, unsafe working conditions, strict foreign legal sys-tems, and lack of support from the Philippine government. At least 49 other Filipino mi-grants face the death penalty in other coun-tries, many for drug-related cases.

As of 2024, the Department of Migrant Workers has recorded 2,457 migrant Fil-ipinos detained worldwide. Out of these, Philippine lawyers have won only 46 cases and lost 204.

NTF-Elcac officials to pay damages for Red-tagging

JOURNALIST ALFONSO TOMAS "Atom" Araullo has won a civil case against National Task Force-Elcac officials Lorraine Badoy-Partosa and Jeffrey Celiz for their Red-tagging. Badoy and Celiz were ordered to pay a total of ₱2.08 million in damages for the harm they caused Araullo. Lawyers from the Movement Against Disinformation represented him in court.

Araullo filed the case in September 2023 in response to the relentless vilification and spreading of lies by the two through their television program on SMNI and social media. The lawsuit stipulated that the two violated Araullo's rights which seriously damaged and destroyed his reputation, peace of mind, and per-sonal relationships.

In its decision, the court ruled that their Red-tagging of Araullo abused freedom of expression. This type of court decision is unprecedented.

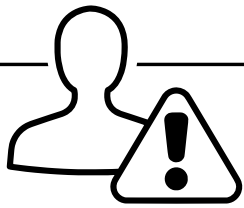
The judge based the ruling on a Supreme Court decision stat-ing that "red-tagging, vilification, labelling, and guilt by associa-tion constitute threats to a person's right to life, liberty, or security."

Meanwhile, the collective action of citizens, including propos-als by local councils in Naga City and Baguio City against Red-tag-ging and other forms of intimidation and violence against human rights defenders, is also considered a victory.

Congress recommends filing criminal charges against Duterte, cohorts

AFTER 13 HEARINGS, the Quad Committee of Congress recommended on December 18 the filing of criminal charges against former president Rodrigo Duterte and his cohorts for committing widespread extrajudicial killings under his administration's bogus war on drugs. This case is similar to that filed by the families of drug war victims at the International Criminal Court (ICC). Additionally, the committee recommended filing separate criminal charges against those involved in Philippine Offshore Gaming Operations (POGO).

The committee reported that one exposé in the hearings was Duterte's reward system that funded his administration's "drug war." This system resulted in a culture of impunity that led to the extrajudicial killing of 12,000 to 30,000 suspected drug users. The hearing attendees also said this system followed the "Davao model" of then Davao mayor Duterte's extrajudicial killings. Duterte himself admitted, in one instance when he attended the hearing, to have given rewards to police from the excess funds of drug war operations.

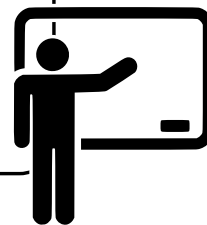


1,322

of 1,456 names supposed to have received CIF funds from VP Sara Duterte have no birth, marriage, or death records.

7,651

shortage of teachers for students with "special needs" totaling 323,344 in 2023-2024.



80%

of agricultural land in the Philippines is "degraded" or unable to absorb non-organic fertilizer.

71 sa 82

governors in the Philippines are from political dynasties.

47 of them will run for the same position in the 2025 elections, while 19 will replace a relative.

**6.08
MILLION**

Filipino workers are underemployed as of October, higher than the 5.78 million recorded in September 2024.

₱216.85 B

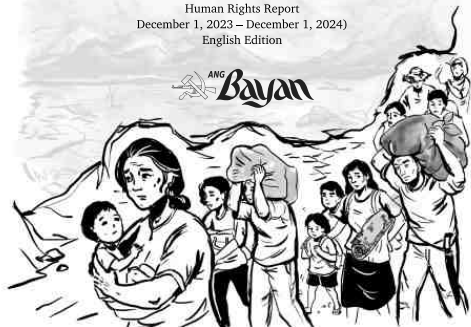
debt payments made by the Philippines in October, 179% higher than in October 2023 and 131.65% higher than the previous month.

NEW

Special Report:

THE MARCOS REGIME INTENSIFIES ATTACKS ON THE FILIPINO PEOPLE

Human Rights Report
December 1, 2023 – December 1, 2024
English Edition



<https://philippinerevolution.nu/>



NEW



5 illegally arrested in recent weeks

One illegal arrest after another were perpetrated this month of December. The US-Marcos regime's brutal fascist repression spares no one, not even the elderly and the sick.

In Iloilo City, state forces arrested 74-year-old sick Tomas Dominado and his caregiver on December 5, in Barangay Sooc, Arevalo. He was charged with murder and rebellion cases filed a decade ago in court. His caregiver was also charged with illegal possession of firearms and ammunition, terrorism, harboring the primary accused, and obstruction of justice.

Dominado suffered a stroke last year, is bedridden, and relies on his caregiver to move using a wheelchair. He suffers from high blood pressure, heart enlargement, neurological deficits, and other serious medical conditions, which will worsen with his imprisonment.

In Olongapo City, police arrested an elderly on December 7 in Barangay Gordon Heights claiming he was former New People's Army (NPA) commander Prudencio Calubid. CPP information officer Marco Valbuena said it was not Calubid they arrested, who was abducted and disappeared by military agents

in 2006. Clearly, the arrest of the elderly aims to collect the ₱7.8 million bounty on Calubid's head.

In Quezon, 85th IB soldiers arrested Ronilo Villanueva and another person named "Genero" on December 12 in Barangay Guinhalinan, San Narciso. Soldiers previously shot Villanueva in the foot.

In Negros Occidental, joint military and police forces led by the 79th IB arrested 58-year-old woman Melba Gabriel on December 14, in Sitio Malig-on, Barangay Bandila, Toboso. She is accused of being a key leader of the NPA and was arrested for frustrated murder.

Abduction. The NPA-Sorsogon recently reported the abduction and secret detention of medic Gerald Gestole (Ka Chris). He was abducted on November 17, around 4:30 PM, at



a tricycle stop in Barangay Crysanthemum, San Pedro, Laguna.

Shooting. Soldiers of the 94th IB opened fire at farmer Jesse Tala-ban's house in his absence at Barangay Buenavista, Himamaylan City on December 12. They also illegally raided and ransacked the house.

Nexperia dismissals. The company dismissed four officials of Nexperia Philippines Inc. Workers' Union-NAFLU-KMU, including its president, on December 17. The illegal dismissals were in retaliation to the workers filing of a "notice of strike" on December 10, following a year of company delay and deadlock in negotiations for a new CBA. The 1,195 workers voted in favor of the strike on December 20. According to the union, the capitalist used the pretext of "obstructing" the ingress and egress of products from the company's premises to fire them.

Demolition. On December 10, 47 houses in Dalat, San Roque, Davao City were threatened with demolition. Residents said the threat came from the office of Atty. Elisio Braganza. On that day, local government representatives, particularly from the City Engineering Office, visited the community. AB

Courts unjustly convict Palawan 6

COURTS CONVICTED SIX human rights defenders in Palawan for illegal possession of explosives and explosive devices and rebellion in recent weeks. According to the human rights group, the *reclusion perpetua* or life imprisonment sentence is unjust and a deliberate miscarriage of justice.

The activists, part of the Palawan 7, were arrested on October 4, 2019, at a checkpoint in Sitio Anilawan, Barangay Babuyan, Puerto Princesa City. The seven arrested were KASAMA-Timog Katagalugan organizer Antonio Molina; indigenous Palaw'ans Bener Rimbunan and Awing Lumpat; former Karapatan-ST secretary general Glendhyl Malabanan; Karapatan-ST staff members Ronces Paraguso and Jenny Bautista; and Pamalakaya-Palawan organizer Joemelito Tanilon. Molina died of a heart attack in detention in November 2021.

The Palawan 6 are planning to appeal their case. Human rights groups also call for the dismissal of other charges filed against the victims and their immediate release.

Budget 2025: for election purposes and anti-poor

The national budget approved by the bicameral committee of the Senate and Congress in the first week of December drew widespread condemnation. In the final version, the committee slashed funds for social services and transferred it to milking cow programs such as infrastructure projects and aid, which serve patronage politics.

The committee inserted a total of ₱860.5 billion for the 2025 budget, where ₱487.5 billion is for funds realignment and ₱373 billion are “unprogrammed funds.”

The most notable in the “realignment” is the bicameral committee’s reinclusion of the Ayuda sa Kapos sa Kita Program (AKAP) which the Lower House leadership proposed but was removed in the Senate version. The committee allocated ₱26 billion for the program, more than half the original amount of ₱39 billion. If divided among themselves, congressman will each get ₱83 million, while each senator, ₱208 million. If the party-list representatives were not given a share, each district representative will receive ₱103 million. To complete the funds, the allocations for the labor and social work departments were reduced.

The pretext of bureaucrats for the AKAP is

to provide assistance to low-income families affected by high inflation rates. This is in addition to many existing assistance programs such as the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps), Assistance to Individuals in Crisis Situations, TUPAD, and other programs, which politicians have long used to expand influence and buy votes.

More than AKAP, the committee increased the funds for the Department of Public Works and Highways by ₱288.65 billion, which inflated the budget to ₱1.11 trillion, the largest allocation in the department’s history, and the largest in the entire budget.

The bureaucrats also raised the unprogrammed funds or funds without a specific source, which the president’s office will handle and manage. From the original ₱158.7 billion, the committee inserted an additional ₱373 billion, bloating the funds by more than half a trillion.

This fund is actually the president’s “pork barrel” which his cronies are expected to use to secure the loyalty of the bureaucrats for the upcoming election.

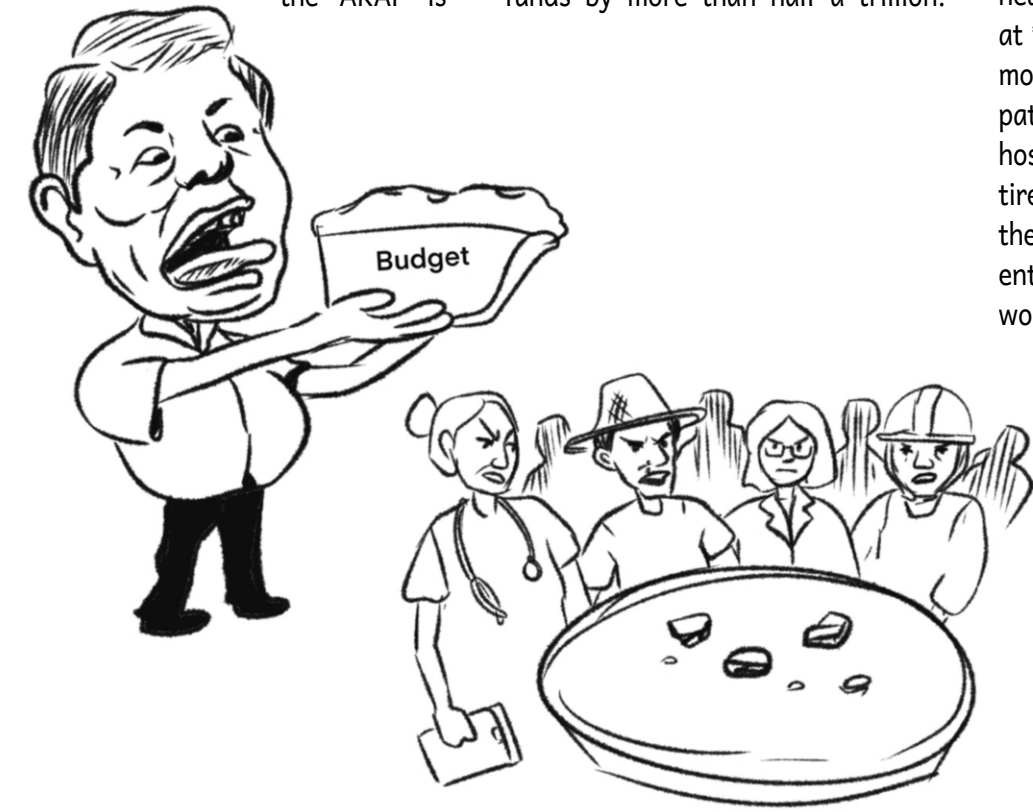
To secure the military’s loyalty, the committee raised the soldiers’ daily allowance (apart from salary) from ₱150/day to ₱350/day for a total of ₱10,500/month. This allocation increase is unmatched by any other government employee. The committee also maintained the ₱4.5 billion allocation for the NTF-Elcac.

Conversely, the DepEd budget was reduced by ₱12 billion. The already meager DoH funds was also reduced by ₱25.80 billion, and the Commission on Higher Education funds by ₱26.91 billion. The University of the Philippines budget was reduced by a total of ₱2.93 billion, the largest cut in nearly a decade.

The budget for agriculture was also reduced by ₱43.2 billion (₱20 billion from the agriculture department and ₱23.2 billion from the National Irrigation Administration).

Meanwhile, the committee retained no single centavo for Philhealth, which Congress initially set at ₱74.43 billion. This effectively removed the government subsidy for patients who are unable to pay for hospitalization and placed this entirely on members. This highlights the nature of Philhealth as a private entity directly funded by ordinary workers and employees, and the state’s abandonment of its responsibility in public health.

The ₱500 million budget slashed from the vice president’s office was not restored amid attempts of Sara Duterte’s allies to reinsert it. Nor was it given confidential and intelligence funds (CIF) while the huge CFI for Ferdinand Marcos Jr’s office was retained. **AB**



CPI (Maoist) calls on the People's Liberation Guerrilla Army:

Overcome weaknesses, advance the guerrilla struggle!

The Communist Party of India-(CPI) Maoist commemorated the 24th anniversary of the People's Liberation Guerrilla Army (PLGA) with a week-long celebration from December 2 to December 8. The Party called for expanding the mass base, expanding its revolutionary forces, and preserving and advancing the Party, PLGA, and the revolutionary united front. The Party called for intensifying the fight against the counterrevolutionary "Kagaar" unleashed against Indian and Adivasi people in the central Indian state.

The Military Commission of the CPI (Maoist) led the assessment of the PLGA's status in a year of revolutionary struggle that began in October. It acknowledged the setbacks caused by internal weaknesses and limitations, as well as intense enemy attacks. It revisited the victories and lessons from the Party's significant decisions since 2019, which led to a resurgence in armed struggle in the following years (2020-2022).

With this, the CPI (Maoist) recognized positive experiences in guerrilla warfare and successful mobilization of the people in anti-imperialist, anti-bourgeois comprador, anti-feudal, and anti-militarization struggles.

These include the attack by combined PLGA forces from different units against a police camp in

South Bastar, Dandakaranya on January 16. In this raid, guerrillas surrounded a village occupied by 500 paramilitary and special command forces and fired over 1,000 grenades from spigot grenade launchers and hundreds of bullets. Over 35 police and commandos were killed and 40 were injured.

PLGA units continued to launch tactical offensives in response to the Party's call for a counter-offensive campaign from March to June.

This resulted in at least 100 guerrilla actions in the first 10 months of the year, which killed 64 enemy troops and injured 120.

Nevertheless, these numbers were lower compared to previous years, according to the CPI (Maoist). The efforts to arrest the damage from enemy attacks were insufficient. Within 10 months

alone, 254 PLGA fighters were martyred. This was due to the persistence of old practices and the inability to keep the guerrilla army movements and methods secret, the Party noted.

To address this, the Party tasked the PLGA to ensure the preservation of subjective forces and avoid losses. It stated that the methods of camping, movement, acquiring weapons, holding meetings and studies, military training, and the use of electronic devices needed to be changed. It was necessary to dismantle the networks of informers, spies, "surrenderers," and double agents planted by the enemy in communities and neutralize their impact.

The Party estimates that the reactionary Indian state deployed around 800,000 police, paramilitary, commandos, air force, and special forces in the Kagaar campaign. These forces encircled and occupied suspected revolutionary bases, including forests. Foreign and local corporations target these areas for the construction of dams, energy plants, and mines.

In response to this, the Party emphasized the need to improve the PLGA to make it more effective in waging guerrilla warfare.

It added the need to create a broad movement to prevent counterrevolutionary attacks on the people, as well as the need to oppose the ruling Hindu fascist class, represented by the Modi regime, in building a "Hindu state run as if a corporation." Under this scheme, all forests and even plains of the country will be handed over to local and foreign companies for agriculture, mining, energy plants, and others, to the detriment of Indian and Adivasi people.

