



EDITORIAL

The radiance of the revolutionary stars will never fade

On the occasion of International Women's Day on March 8, the Party pays tribute to all the women who rightfully took their place in the revolution. They are the women revolutionaries, cadres, Red commanders and fighters, who traversed the difficult path of struggle, took action and took lead, and many took up arms, to achieve the lofty dream of women's and national liberation.

They are the ones who did not yield nor surrendered in the face of intense battles, filled with revolutionary spirit until their last breath. They are revolutionary stars whose radiance will shine forever.

The Party gives its highest tribute to the women who led the Party, the people's army, and the revolutionary movement. The Party honors the women who served in the Central Committee including Ka Maria Malaya (Myrna Sularte), secretary of the Northeast Mindanao Regional Committee and the Mindanao Commission; Ka Bagong-Tao (Wilma Tiamzon), general secretary of the

Party; Ka Fiel (Eugenia Magpantay), general secretary of the Party; Ka Elay (Helenita Parladis), secretary of the Eastern Visayas Regional Committee; Ka Lalay (Aprecia Alvarez Rosete), secretary of the Western Mindanao Regional Committee; Ka Sandy (Josephine Mendoza), deputy secretary of the Southern Tagalog Regional Committee; and Ka Kaye (Sandra Reyes), member of the Mindanao Commission.

We also will not forget Ka Concha Araneta-Bocala, spokesperson of the National Democratic Front-Panay, and hundreds of other

women who served as secretaries, political guides, commanders, fighters, doctors and nurses of the masses, organizers, propagandists, supporters, teachers and trainers, counselors and advisors, and many others.

Let us celebrate the enormous contribution of women to the Philippine revolution. Let us value their wisdom, enthusiasm, and determination which enriches and strengthens the people's struggle. It is in the realm of struggle for the nation and for women that they achieve their full potential as human beings and equals. They fight against patriarchy that relegates them as weak or inferior, and demonstrate their steel commitment.

Women revolutionaries are a beacon of hope for the millions of women who suffer in a society that regards them as inferior and weak.

They serve as models for women who receive lower wages and caught in the drudgery of menial work; those who toil in the fields, yet are not counted as productive; those who are landless and driven away from their ancestral lands; those tied to domestic work of caring for their husbands and children, but have little or no voice in their own homes; those who cannot escape abusive relationships due to fear and lack of economic power; those who are forced to work abroad to provide for their families; those who experience gender discrimination; and those who are victims of sexual abuse and violence.

Let us recognize their outstanding contribution as mothers and wives in building revolutionary families and relationships, in advocating and militantly promoting policies for the protection of women, children, and LGBT individuals against exploitation and oppression. Let us recognize their role in raising the awareness of men and people regarding women's issues, promoting equal treatment regardless of gender, and building strong support systems for fellow women.

Let us appreciate their sacrifices, their decision to leave behind

comfortable lives and personal dreams, their endurance in facing the many hardships of war, and especially their long separation from their own children. Despite this, their lives in the struggle are filled with joy and enthusiasm. Endless are the stories of affection, humor, and tears of women in the struggle. Like rare flowers in the forest, they are cherished and protected by the masses and their comrades.

In the face of worsening poverty and suffering of millions of families amid the economic crisis caused by the corruption of the Marcos regime, and anti-poor and pro-foreign capitalist policies and programs, women, along with the entire community, continue to awaken to


the need to rise and fight. Women are among the frontline of workers actively building their unions and various organizations. They are among those leading in expressing their grievances and their fight for higher wages, rights to regular employment, and better working conditions. They are among those who bravely stand up against greedy capitalists, their armed goons, and fascist state agents.

They are at the forefront of the poor masses fighting against the relentless rise in prices of rice, food, oil, fuel, medicine, transportation, and other services. They are the mothers and daughters who unite with their neighbors to condemn Marcos and politicians for squandering the people's money on their luxurious lives, and to denounce the government's policy of endless borrowing to fund corruption. In campuses, young women are among frontline marchers fighting incessant increases in tuition fees and cost of education, as well as against Marcos' puppetry to the US and for allowing the country to be dragged in imperialist wars.

In the countryside, women are among the masses organizing and taking action against the Marcos regime and its policy of all-out liberalization that is killing the livelihood of millions of peasants. They are among those collectively calling for genuine land reform, and raising demands to lower land rent, interest on loans from users and banks, and prices of farming equipment. In thousands of villages controlled by the military, they courageously condemn the abuse and violence of fascist soldiers, especially against women and children.

Women are among the frontline of young new Red fighters of the NPA. Like previous generations of women fighters, they now demonstrate boundless courage in facing the enemy, and endless love and care for the masses who are one with them in their desire for a free and bright future.






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Extend the broadest support to the Nexperia workers strike

On March 5, more than 1,300 workers of Nexperia Philippines Inc simultaneously stopped working and declared a strike at their factory in the Light Industry Science Park 1 in Cabuyao, Laguna. Their goal is to collectively advance their struggle for wage increases, reinstatement of terminated workers, and against union busting.

The workers at Nexperia have long endured the capitalist trampling of their welfare and disregard of their grievances. The company's management has stubbornly refused to heed their demands for living wages, against contractualization, and against attacks on their union rights. In favor of capitalist interests, the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) issued an "assumption of jurisdiction" to stop any planned strike, purportedly to "mediate."

Instead, the capitalist is offering an insulting daily wage increase of ₱17, along with the successive termination of hundreds of workers since 2023. To make profits, workers are being forced to work double time. In 2024, the company reached a production of nine billion electronic chips used in the production of vehicles, communication devices, and others. This was achieved by forcing workers to operate up to four machines each, with plans to increase this soon to nine machines.

The historical significance of the Nexperia strike cannot be underestimated. It is one of the biggest strikes in recent years in a foreign-owned company. This strike is in direct defiance to the "no strike" policy strictly enforced in export processing zones. The bravery of the Nexperia workers is a testament to the living spirit of resistance of Filipino workers. It reminds all workers of the importance of unity and determination to fight for their welfare and dignity.

The Nexperia workers'

strike broke out amid the worsening socio-economic crisis affecting the entire country. It is a reflection of the widespread discontent among the toiling masses and people in the face of rising food and basic commodity prices, low wages, and widespread unemployment. Millions are being deprived of their land and livelihood, and are being trampled upon by foreign capitalists, local big businesses, and landlords. The strike of Nexperia workers, therefore, gives voice not only to the workers of Nexperia but to the entire nation suffering under the oppressive and anti-national policies of the US-Marcos regime.

The workers of Nexperia are displaying courage and militance in their struggle. They are proving that they will not back down in the face of capitalist oppression, intimidation, and violence. Because they

have justice and reason on their side, they are not intimidated by the various forms of harassments and threats by the capitalist that they will be fired or sued. They are drawing strength and courage from each other, standing together against the greedy capitalists.

It is only just to call on all workers and the entire people to rise up and support the strike of Nexperia workers. This is a time for workers solidarity, regardless of their federation or industry. It should be made clear to all workers, including those in export processing zones, that the struggle of Nexperia workers is also their struggle. The fight for living wages, humane working conditions, and the right to unionize is a collective struggle of all Filipino workers, as well as workers in all parts of the world.

All other democratic sectors should extend support to the strike of Nexperia workers. Their issues should be brought to the biggest possible number of campuses, communities, offices, and churches, to gain the broad support of the entire nation. The widest material and moral support should be gathered for the Nexperia workers. The success of their strike will surely serve as an inspiration to awaken workers and other sectors to stand up and fight against oppression and exploitation.

While we salute the courage of Nexperia workers in militantly advancing their democratic demands and interests, we should also shine light on the path of broader struggle against all forms of oppression of the working masses and the entire nation. We should show how the struggle of Nexperia workers is linked to the overall revolutionary struggle to end the rotten and oppressive system.



Struggle to survive!

The quota system in the coffee plantation requires the entire Lupao family to work in harvesting. Lydia, her husband, and their three children need to swiftly harvest the 7-hectare coffee plantation. Lydia faces the threat of being delisted from 4Ps, unless she sends back to school her children who help them in their livelihood.

Rosario, mother to a 6-year-old child and a 1-year-old infant, lost her home in a fire. Her fellow urban poor community members believe the fire was deliberately set to evict them from the area. Her family survives only on the meager income of her husband, a pedicab driver. They are now sheltered in a flood-prone evacuation center.

Kris, a transgender, works as a masseuse in a small spa. Despite her exhausting job, her total earnings from commissions do not reach the minimum wage. She shoulders her own SSS and Philhealth contributions. She receives no protection from harassments of clients asking for “special services.”

These are the different faces of Filipino women. The magnitude of their suffering and sacrifice is undeniable. They work tirelessly to support their families, but the majority of them are considered “non-productive.” More than half of women are not counted in the “labor force.” There are laws and programs for women that sound impressive, but are toothless and meaningless amid the widespread abuses endured by women.

Women worldwide experience double oppression amid widespread unemployment and low wages. More women are jobless. They receive lower wages compared to male workers. They are more severely affected by the impacts of climate change and wars. The violence they face intensifies in human trafficking,



pornography, prostitution, commodification of children, including those that occur through social media and other platforms.

The oppression women face is even more severe under the semi-colonial and semifeudal system. On top of the the basic problems of imperialism, feudalism, and bureaucratic capitalism, Filipino women additionally face various forms oppression under the feudal and bourgeois patriarchal systems.

Amid the rampaging crisis in the economy, politics, and culture, where should women be? At the center and forefront of advancing the revolution that will truly transform their exploited and oppressed conditions. This has been proven by decades of practice of the revolutionary women’s movement in the Philippines, led by the Makabayang Kilusan ng Bagong Kababaihan (Makibaka), guided by the Communist Party of the Philippines. Makibaka has shown that women, including LGBTQ individuals and even children, belong in the ranks of the revolution.

In rural areas, organs of political power are being established with women as strong partners through local chapters of Makibaka. The

gains of the role of peasant women in politics cannot be understated, in the form of economic benefits of communal farming, through their peasant associations and cooperatives. Even in the cultural aspect, it promotes democratization within the family, mass-oriented health-care, and mobilizing children for alternative culture and education.

In urban areas, Makibaka promotes the democratic demands, welfare, and rights of women, children, and LGBTQ in the mass movement. It vigorously exposes and fights corruption, ineptness, and fascism of the ruling system through the active contributions of the women’s movement in workplaces, schools, communities, offices, churches, and other places where women are present. They add their voices to the people’s clamor for national freedom from foreign domination and oppression.

US imperialism aims to suppress women’s participation in the revolution and overpower the militant spirit of the women’s movement. Using instruments like USAID, the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, the United Nations, and others, it pushes programs that use

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Walk-out at UP Baguio. An estimated 1,200 University of the Philippines (UP)-Baguio students, teachers, and employees participated in a walk-out on February 26 to demand higher funding for education, budget transparency, and the administration's accountability. This was the largest demonstration in recent years at UP Baguio. Led by the Alliance of Concerned Students (ACS), they denounced the misuse of university funds, which the Commission on Audit exposed in December 2024 in its 2023 Annual Audit Report.

Dance protest by women. Around 1,000 women workers from Southern Tagalog gathered in Laguna to hold a dance protest on March 2 as part of the One Billion Rising movement. Women Workers United (WWU) led the activity that called for an end to workplace violence, living wages, regular and decent work, access to public services, and workers' right to unionize.

The Philippine Mining Act's 30 years. Environmental groups under Kalikasan PNE and other progressive groups protested at the foot of Mendiola in Manila on March 3 to call for the repeal of the Philippine Mining Act of 1995 on its 30th anniversary. The protesters carried a map of the Philippines showing the locations of the largest mines in the country and the political dynasties that own them.

The 15-kilometers is ours. Over 100 fishermen, academics, students, and church people in Iloilo came together to form the Aton ang Kinse Kilometro alliance on March 3 to defend the rights of small fisherfolk to the 15-kilometer municipal waters. Members of Pamalakaya from Panay attended and participated in the gathering.

82nd IB kills civilian farmer in fabricated encounter in Capiz

THE 82ND IB troops shot and killed Peter Agudes, a farmer also known as "Tito," in Barangay Minan, Tapaz, Capiz on February 26, and injured two of Agudes' companions. The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) falsely claimed that Agudes was killed in an armed encounter between soldiers and the New People's Army (NPA).

Perla Agudes, the victim's wife, vehemently denied that the three were Red fighters. The family is calling for justice and a fair investigation. The Agudes family resides in Sitio Taroytoy, Barangay Manica, Libacao, Aklan. Peter left behind three children aged 10, 13, and 16.

Massacre. The 26th IB soldiers mercilessly massacred the Gomansil family—Toto Gomansil, Toni Gomansil, and their daughter Celine Gomansil—at Dayuman River, Barangay San Vicente, Esperanza, Agusan Del Sur on December 15, 2024. Months after the heinous crime, justice or accountability for the massacre remains evasive.

Before the crime, the Gomansil family even asked the soldiers deployed at a nearby detachment, for permission to work on their farm. Despite their "notification," the soldiers followed them, tied up the couple Toto and Toni, and subjected them to intense interrogation before hacking them to death. The soldiers shot Celine when she tried to run. They were accused of having links with the NPA and the revolutionary movement in the province.

Aerial terrorism. Trauma and terror resulted from the military helicopters' strafing in the barangays of La Paz, Agusan del Sur, and Cabanglasan, Bukidnon on March 4. The helicopters fired indiscriminately on the pretext of supporting AFP ground operations against the people's army, affecting civilians. The soldiers also deployed FA50 fighter jets armed with 250-lb or 500-lb bombs, but were called off after one of the three jet fighters went missing.

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fancy words like "inclusion," "safe spaces," and "peace zones for children." These "advocacies" aim to obscure the issues of national oppression and class exploitation as the root of women's oppression, divert them from the revolutionary path of social transformation, and lead them towards reformism, legalism, and NGOism.

Amid all this, it is more crucial to show the broad masses of women that only armed struggle would liberate them from various forms of oppression. Over the past decades, Filipino women have traversed the path of armed revolution, contributing their abilities and lives as New People's Army Red fighters and commanders and as Party leaders and cadres.

Like Lydia, Tess, Rosario, and Kris, the broad ranks of women are waiting to claim their place in the revolution. It is now more critical than ever for women, especially working-class women, to persevere in raising awareness, organizing, and struggling. They must firmly grasp the principles of the revolutionary women's movement and wave the banner of the national-democratic movement.

AB

Strengthening the movement of Filipino compatriots

Several scores of members of Compatriots gathered recently to hold the historic convention of the Filipino migrant movement. The revolutionary organization Compatriots represents the special sector of Filipino migrants under the National Democratic Front of the Philippines.

Within the framework of the rectification movement, Compatriots affirmed its role to organize and mobilize Filipino compatriots for the national democratic revolution, wherever they are in the world. Filipino migrants number up to 15 million, including millions of temporary workers in low-class jobs. Since 2023, nearly 10,000 Filipinos leave the country every day due to lack of local jobs, absence or insufficient income, and very low wages, land and livelihood disenfranchisement. Through the labor export policy, the reactionary state sacrifices them to ease the country's employment crisis. They are daily fleeced by millions of pesos in the form of fees for basic services that do not even benefit them.

In foreign countries, they endure abuse, labor rights violations, racism or racial discrimination, violence, and very high migration costs. They have no protections, especially female workers in jobs most vulner-

able to abuse and crime.

Compatriots studied the summing up of over four decades of revolutionary work among migrants and drew lessons from recorded rich experiences. It reviewed the lessons of the first and second great rectification movements to contextualize the current rectification movement against subjectivism, conservatism, ultra-democracy, and bureaucratism.

The conference also studied the social investigation and class analysis (SICA) prepared by its committees in various countries and continents. Using these, Compatriots answered and clarified immediate questions regarding the sector and set policies for expansion and organizing.

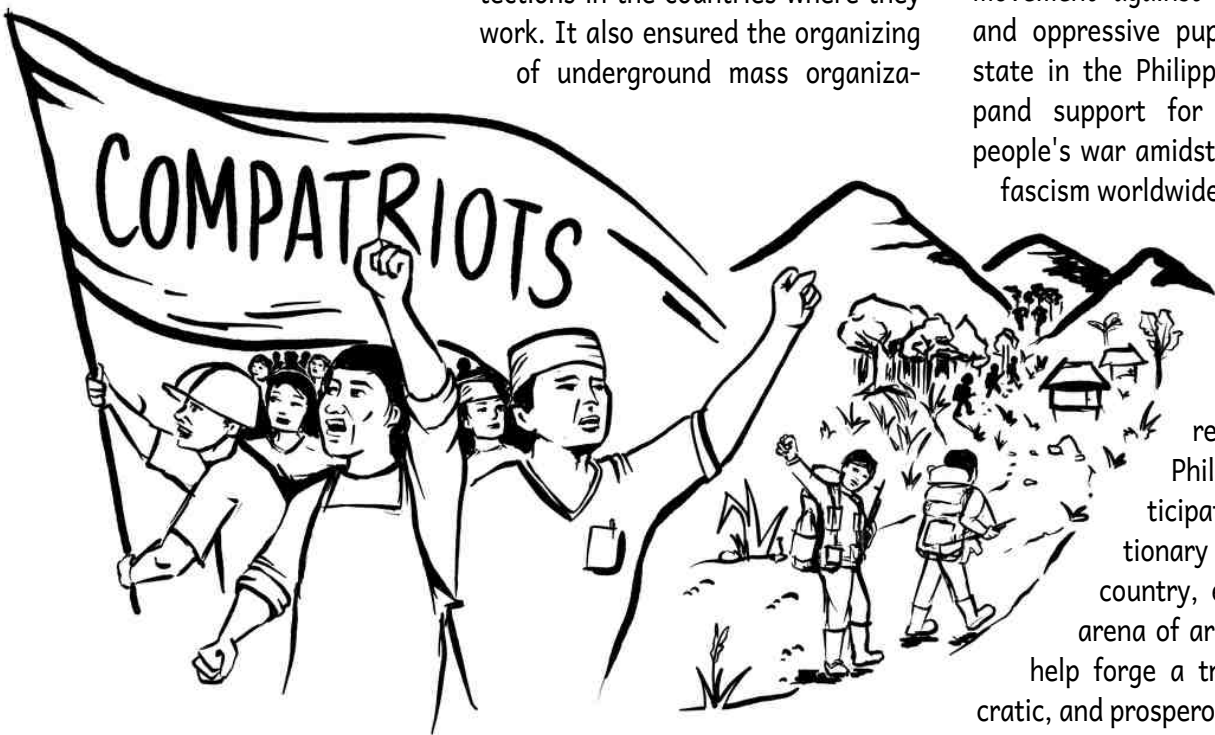
To advance the interests of Filipino migrants, Compatriots emphasized the need to build organizations among their ranks to promote their democratic rights, including the right to employment and social protections in the countries where they work. It also ensured the organizing of underground mass organiza-

tions that will serve as partners of the Party in leading the migrant movement, strengthening the movement of Filipino migrant workers and the broad multisectoral patriotic mass movement of Filipinos in various countries. Compatriots foresee that the growth of these movements will increase their contribution to anti-imperialist solidarity, as well as the advancement of the international proletarian revolution.

The situation of migrants is closely linked to the issues faced by the people in the Philippines, such as low wages of workers and landlessness, bureaucrat-capitalists corruption under the ruling state, and the domination of US imperialism in Philippine society. Given a choice, they would prefer to stay in the country with their loved ones. While outside the country, their ultimate desire is to return to their homeland.

Being Filipinos, migrants are recognized as integral to the national liberation movement. The solution to their migration is the advancement of the national democratic revolution. The challenge for Compatriots is to strengthen the movement against the exploitative and oppressive puppet reactionary state in the Philippines and to expand support for the protracted people's war amidst the intensifying fascism worldwide.

The Party and the Filipino people see migrants in their numbers returning to the Philippines to participate in the revolutionary movement in the country, especially in the arena of armed struggle, to help forge a truly free, democratic, and prosperous society. **AB**



Uphold the lessons of the EDSA uprising

On the occasion of the EDSA uprising's 39th anniversary, the National Democratic Front of the Philippines reminded the people of its crucial lessons and the need to advance its gains through the promotion of the national-democratic revolution.

NDFP secretary general Elias Diapasupil recognized the unique role of the EDSA uprising in the history of the Filipino people. It united various groups, from the sincere to those with their personal agendas, to oust a dictator. The breadth and diversity of the forces gave it strength, but it also made the outcome of the uprising vulnerable to distortion and cooptation.

After nearly four decades, the country remains mired in poverty, ruled by bureaucratic capitalists and their imperialist masters. The Marcos family has returned to Malacañang and is swaggering in power. In the past two years alone, nine cases related to their stolen wealth were dismissed by the Sandiganbayan. They have accumulated even greater wealth from public funds through intelligence and confidential funds, unprogrammed funds, the Maharlika Investment Fund, and many other channels of corruption.

Nevertheless, the EDSA uprising and its lessons remain significant in the fight against tyranny. The uprising

serves as an important reminder of the need for vigorous and relentless education and organizing. The dictator was not ousted in just three days in 1986. In the 14 years prior, underground organizations were built in urban areas until the people were able to mount bigger mass actions to break the reign of terror. In the countryside, the New People's Army launched armed resistance to counter intense militarization, alongside peasant struggles to advance their demand for genuine land reform.

Above all, a crucial lesson is the need to complete the experience of the EDSA uprising against tyranny until revolutionary change is achieved and a truly democratic government of the people, as demanded by the masses, is established.

Living the spirit of EDSA

On February 25, the anniversary of the EDSA uprising itself, 10,000 people gathered at the foot of the Our Lady of EDSA shrine in Man-

daluyong City, Metro Manila. Joining forces in this gathering were the Tama Na Alliance, Bagong Alyansang Makabayan, One Taft Alliance, Duterte Panagutin Network, students, workers, church people, and many others.

They came together to strongly convey to the Marcos regime their calls against corruption and impunity. They also called for the immediate ouster of Sara Duterte, Ferdinand Marcos Jr's vice president.

Similar protests were held in the cities of Baguio, Tuguegarao, Naga, Bacolod, Iloilo, Roxas, Capiz, Cebu, and Davao, with the participation of members of local organizations under Bayan and progressive parties such as Bayan Muna and Kabataan Partylist.

More than 70 schools suspended classes to give students, teachers, and academics the opportunity to participate in various activities marking the uprising.

In Metro Manila, hundreds of students walked out of their classes, including students from the Polytechnic University of the Philippines.

Students of UP-Los Baños and Cavite State University also walked out, while gatherings were held inside Southern Luzon State University in Lucban, Quezon, and Bulacan State University.

In the Visayas, walk-outs occurred at UP-Tacloban and actions were held at the University of Eastern Philippines in Catarman, Samar.

In Mindanao, gatherings were held in the campuses of Ateneo de Davao University, Ateneo de Zamboanga University, and Xavier University in Cagayan de Oro City. **AB**



60 mining permits

covering 188,199.45 hectares of land in Northern Luzon have been granted by the state to various mining companies since the destructive **Philippine Mining Act of 1995** was enacted.

16%

is the paltry portion of the total extracted value from mining that goes to the state in the form of taxes and shares.

25

out of **755 political detainees** are unionists and labor organizers. They were charged with fabricated cases and imprisoned for defending labor rights.

Source: Free Our Unionist Network

50%-60%

of **fare discounts** for students, senior citizens, and persons with disabilities are being shouldered by drivers of Grab and other similar transportation companies. This significantly reduces the meager earnings of drivers.

Source: Malayang TNVS Movement

₱29/day

is the meager additional wage approved by the Davao regional wage board on February 17, raising minimum wages to a mere ₱505-₱510/day, which is not even half of the ₱1,190 regional living wage in January.

₱4.42 B

earmarked for investment by the **Maharlika Fund** in the Makilala Mining Company, a firm with destructive operations in Kalinga.

100,000

rallied in South Korea on March 1 to demand the impeachment of the country's president, Yoon Seuk Yul, and call for the reunification of the two Koreas (North and South). March 1 marks the patriotic movement of the Korean people against the Japanese occupation.

₱4/kilo

was the farmgate price of **tomatoes** in Nueva Ecija in February, resulting in farmers' losses and driving them deeper into debt.



Collective resistance to rising college tuition fees

A number of student councils, publications, and organizations from various private colleges and universities collectively stood against the planned tuition and other fees increase (TOFI) for the academic year 2025-2026. According to the latest report from the National Union of Students of the Philippines (NUSP), the proposed rates of increase in university fees for the next academic year range from 2% to 10%.

Every year around February, the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) receives petitions for proposed TOFI. This "right" to increase fees aligns with CHED Memorandum Order No 03 Series of 2012. This includes conducting "consultations" with students to explain the purpose of TOFI.

However, these consultations are bogus, based on the experience of councils and students. These are basically used to railroad the TOFI. Sometimes, the administration outrightly disregards even this CHED-mandated process.

The usual pretexts for tuition increases include rising prices of

goods, salary increases for teachers and other employees, and improvements to facilities and services. According to NUSP, these are worn-out justifications, as increases in tuition and other fees are clearly aimed at boosting profits. These have not brought improvement in facilities or in the conditions of university teachers or staff.

Justified resistance

The average amount needed to send a student to college per year is ₱130,000. A minimum-wage earner's total income (₱120,000) is not enough. One needs an esti-

mated ₱2 million to complete a 4-year college course in major universities in the country.

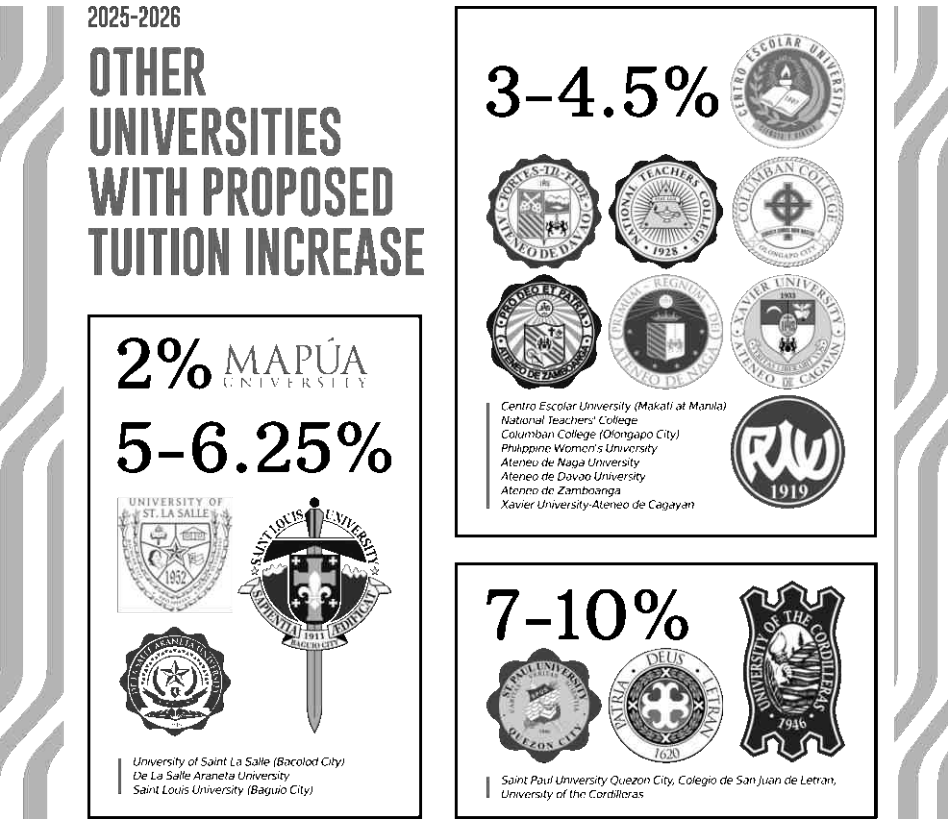
Amid rising prices of basic goods, it is just for students to fight against additional tuition fees. In recent months, they have launched forums, meetings, rallies, and other types of activities to express their opposition.

Actions have taken place at the University of the East (5% TOFI), De La Salle University (3%), University of Santo Tomas, Ateneo de Manila University (6%), Adamson University (5%), and other universities in Metro Manila.

At Saint Louis University in Baguio City, student actions pulled down the initially proposed 9% increase to 6.25%. "Reducing TOFI is a victory, but 6.25% remains a burden for thousands of new [students]. We will continue the fight," according to the group Walang Iwanan Louisian Network.

A 3.5% increase is looming at Holy Angel University in Pampanga. In a survey by The Angelite newspaper, three out of four students reject any TOFI for the next year, and over 60% are likely to drop out of school due to TOFI. This is the third fee increase in three years.

The NUSP continues to consult with student councils of universities with impending tuition increases. They are strengthening the unity of councils and students nationwide to further highlight the fight against tuition and other fee increases. They hold CHED and the Marcos regime accountable for favoring private businesses that profit at the expense of Filipino youth and their education.



Standing up for the Mindoro masses

Various groups, including Karapatan-Southern Tagalog, bravely confronted the 203rd IBde's brazen military harassment and violence, to carry out a fact-finding mission (FFM) on the island of Mindoro from February 23 to March 1.

The team sought to determine the condition of the Mangyan and peasant masses gripped by militarization and military terrorist rule. No less than 10 combat battalions of the military are stationed in Mindoro for "counter-insurgency" operations. In their investigation, they recorded the military's various violations of international humanitarian law which protects civilians in areas with armed conflict.

The team specifically visited the towns of Pola, Bulalacao, and Mansalay in Oriental Mindoro where a series of human rights violations were reported following the encounters of the 203rd IBde with the New People's Army (NPA)-Mindoro in February. Upon the team's arrival on the island, a de facto martial law was already imposed in the barangays.

In Pola, the team was blocked and prohibited from entering three distressed villages. Officials claimed the community was in good condition. But interviews with residents revealed to the team the residents' anguish following the aerial strafing conducted by the military after a 3-hour gunfire exchange. This forced them to evacuate. A mother and her 3-month-old baby were severely traumatized.

After the incident, the military convened barangay officials to implement a lockdown in the communities. They imposed a curfew and searches, and threatened to charge anyone who disobeyed orders.

Soldiers used the community school as barracks and erected checkpoints. They illegally arrested and accused some coconut farmers of being Red fighters. The soldiers were forced to release them after

proving they were residents of the area. Coconut farmers suffered significant income losses because they were prohibited or afraid to work. The price of copra could have been high. Even resorts were prohibited from accepting tourists. Meanwhile, schools in two barangays were closed for a week.

Residents complained having received no compensation or assistance from the state during several days of military restrictions.

The team found a similar situation in two barangays in Bulalacao. Alongside interviewing residents, they distributed leaflets about the human rights situation in the Mindoro island.

The team launched a Basic Human Rights Orientation for the Mangyan-Hanunuo indigenous people to inform them of their basic rights to protect themselves against military harassments.

In Mansalay, the team interviewed residents of one of the affected barangays. Before leaving the

island, the team held a candle lighting and offered prayers at a church in Calapan.

During the FFM, two military intelligence personnel harassed and assaulted three team members while they were resting. One was pulled by the arm while the two others were threatened, and two agents even attempted to throw objects at the team. Throughout the FFM, military personnel relentlessly surveilled them.

Despite these challenges, the FFM successfully reported the results of their investigation to the public on March 5 in Quezon City. The team promised to return to the island of Mindoro to continue upholding the rights of the Mindoreño masses.

On the very day of their departure on March 1, the 203rd IBde reportedly began a new series of aerial strafing and bombing in Mansalay, Oriental Mindoro. Residents said two Blackhawk helicopters released a volley of gunfire twice on three adjacent sitios in Barangay Panaytayan, terrorizing civilians. The local unit of the New People's Army denied that any of their units were hit in the area where bullets were rained.

AB

