



EDITORIAL

Cracks in the Duterte fascist coalition

The political intramurals being played at the House of Representatives over the speakership issue is a manifestation of cracks within the Duterte ruling fascist coalition. The shameless jockeying for position is part of the bigger competition to get a bigger slice in the 2021 pork barrel budget, especially with the fast approaching 2022 elections.

On September 30, 184 of 300 members of the House of Representative voted to reject the show of an offer of Speaker Alan Peter Cayetano to resign from his post. The exercise was denounced by many as a waste of people's time and money.

Cayetano's offer to resign, instead of actually resigning, was meant as a stopple to the "term sharing agreement" which he entered with Cong. Lord Allan Velasco. Under this agreement, Cayetano would sit as speaker for the first 15 months of their term, while Velasco will take over the last 21 months. Cayetano is being denounced for clinging to power and

renegeing on the "gentlemen's agreement."

The vote against Cayetano's show of a resignation offer was an indirect slap on Duterte, who himself facilitated and brokered the deal for term-sharing first reached in 2019 and reaffirmed in a recent Malacañang meeting. It shows Duterte's sway over his minions in Congress is not absolute, and that not all are satisfied by the sharing arrangements over the perks and privileges of power.

Both Cayetano and Velasco profess loyalty to the tyrant Duterte. They represent different groups or factions within the Duterte ruling clique. These have

acted in unison to allow Duterte to further accumulate bureaucrat capitalist and fascist power, which recently included the so-called Anti-Terror Law, the denial of the ABS-CBN franchise and the granting of extraordinary powers for Duterte to realign the budget amid the pandemic.

However, reactionary politicians are loyal only as long they are fed well and in relative equality. As long as their congressional districts receive funding for showcase construction of roads, waiting sheds and other infrastructure projects where they can plaster their names onto, political minions in congress will continue to serve well the tyrant and its appointed subalterns. They become increasingly difficult to feed and satisfy whenever elections approach as they demand more to spend to get reelected or seek greater powers.

The intensification of the Cayetano-Velasco dispute is inextricably linked with the ongoing deliberations of the 2021 budget, specifically their share in the ₱397 billion pork barrel funds subsumed under the Department of Public Works and Highways. The Velasco faction have raised complaints over the "inequitable allocation of funding" for infrastructure projects, pointing out that Cayetano's Taguig district and his allies in Camarines Sur will get ₱11.1 and ₱11 billion funding respectively, while districts of non-allies are set to receive only ₱2 billion.

The House conflicts are set to go on high-gear in the coming days with the Velasco faction demanding that Cayetano abide by the "term-sharing" deal and resign on October 14, the date they agreed upon for the leadership transfer. If Cayetano acts otherwise, they have threatened to declare vacant the House Speaker post to pave the way for a showdown.

The contradictions in the House

of Representatives are a reflection of the rising contradictions within the Duterte ruling clique. These are set to deepen and widen in the coming period as the crisis of the ruling system worsen and the avarice of Duterte and his minions become even more impossible to satiate. The contradictions will become even more apparent as the 2022 election campaign period approaches, or as Duterte's charter change or other schemes to perpetuate their power are accelerated.

These fissures are bound to be open conflicts within the military and police, specifically between the rival criminal syndicates, and between its officers engaged in high-stake corruption and gross violations of human rights. There are bound to emerge within the ranks of military and police officers those who see the impossibility of ending the armed conflict in the country through a military-led war of suppression.

Contradictions are also bound to further deepen as international

pressure on the Duterte regime mounts in the face of widespread condemnation of rights abuses perpetrated by Duterte's military and police forces, as well as Duterte's subservience to China and allowing it build military facilities in the South China Sea. From the US congress to the European parliament, calls have reverberated demanding an end to the state-perpetrated killings against activists and in its so-called drug war. He is also being pressed by recent take-down of Facebook accounts being operated by the military.

The Filipino people must take advantage of these contradictions within the ruling clique by further exposing the crimes, corruption, brutality and subservience of the regime and building the broadest unity among all patriotic and democratic classes and sectors. They must vigorously speak up against the regime's pork barrel and counterinsurgency budget for 2021 that is utterly anti-people and anti-poor especially amid the pandemic and the urgency of racking up government spending for medical, economic and educational services. They must denounce the rivalries for power and privilege while people suffer from the failed opening of classes, rising costs of fare, health care, food security and other urgent socio-economic problems.

Some minions are disenchanted that they are left with orts by Duterte's insatiable inner circle. They must be encouraged to renounce the regime of greed and tyranny.

The Filipino people must be further roused to resist Duterte's fascist, puppet and corrupt regime. The evils of the regime must be laid bare in order to rouse their indignation and strengthen their determination to fight back.

The broad masses of workers, peasants and semiproletariat must take action in great numbers in the factories, urban communities and



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rural villages. Tireless propaganda and education work must be conducted among them. The toiling masses must fight for their rights and well-being especially amid the economic crisis and hold the regime accountable for corruption and mispriorities.

At the same time, the alliance among the middle forces must continue to expand and grow in strength and militance. The student youth, teachers, nurses and health workers, government employees, church people, women, opposition forces and other democratic sectors must continue to come together and broaden the ranks of the anti-Duterte united front.

The politically advanced section of Party cadres and mass activists must take lead and serve as models in the arduous and often dangerous work of arousing, organizing and mobilizing the masses. Only by mobilizing the people in their numbers can victory be attained.

The Party must continue to lead the New People's Army in waging extensive and intensive guerrilla warfare. The rising numbers of tactical offensives against the regime over the past several weeks show the nationwide capacity of the NPA and determination to fight the fascist regime and help in its overthrow.

By waging all forms of resistance, the broad masses of the Filipino people can further isolate and weaken the Duterte fascist regime. The regime's resort to state terrorism will surely be defeated in the face of the people's determination to gain back their freedoms and fight for democracy. AB

NPA ambushes Consunji's military security guards

THE NEW PEOPLE'S Army (NPA) mounted successive attacks against soldiers securing the plunderous mining and logging operations of big bourgeois compradors in Mindanao over the past few months. Forty soldiers were killed and at least 34 were wounded during the attacks in Sultan Kudarat and Surigao del Sur.

On September 2, the NPA-Far South Mindanao Region ambushed 37th IB troops aboard a military truck in Barangay Sta. Clara, Kalamansig, Sultan Kudarat. Twenty-four soldiers were killed and 28 others were wounded. The troops were on their way to reinforce security forces of the ABU-Gemma Construction Company in Barangay Datu Andong in the same town

A few hours earlier, the NPA paralyzed a backhoe of the said company. The construction firm is undertaking road widening projects in the area to pave way for the largescale logging operations of D.M. Consunji Incorporated in the first district of Sultan Kudarat. On August 17, Red fighters ambushed a unit of the 37th IB in the same barangay. Three soldiers were killed and another was

wounded.

In Surigao del Sur, the people's army launched successive armed actions against operating troopers of the 3rd SFB, 36th IB, 65th IB and 75th IB serving as security forces of plundererous mining operations in the province. Killed during the attacks were 2nd Lt. Danus and 12 other soldiers. Five soldiers were wounded.

The NPA also blasted operating soldiers in Barangay Hinapuyan, Carmen on July 30. Earlier, the NPA also mounted three harassment operations in barangays Libas Sud and Siagao, San Miguel from May 14 to 18.

The NPA launched another ambush and three harassment operations against joint troopers of the 36th IB, 75th IB and 65th IB from August 4 to 8. AB

Justice served for Lianga massacre

HAWUDON JUMAR BUCALES and two other elements of the Magahat-Bagani paramilitary force were killed in a firefight with the New People's Army-Surigao del Sur last October 4. Red fighters ambushed Bucales at Sitio Mamsapranon, Barangay Banahao in Lianga, Surigao del Sur. Bucales masterminded the massacre of ALCADDEV executive director Emerito Samarca and Lumad leaders Datu Bello Sinzo and Dionel Campos on September 1, 2015.

Justice, which Lumads of Lianga have been denied of for over five years, has finally been served. After the massacre in 2015, the Armed Forces of the Philippines rewarded Bucales with cash, livelihood and power. They had him appointed as the mandatory representative of Lumads and as member of the the provincial tribal council. His para-

military group is funded and directly operated by the 3rd IB. The group was involved in the combat operations and fake surrender campaign in Lianga over the past months.

A cadreman was also killed in an NPA ambush against a CAFGU detachment in Barangay Pakwan, Lanauza on October 3. A .45 caliber pistol was seized from him. AB

NPA ambushes abusive soldiers and police

THE NEW PEOPLE'S Army (NPA) ambushed operating troopers of the 19th IB in Barangay Sta. Cruz, Matuguinao on September 26. Five soldiers were killed and 12 others were wounded.

In Northern Samar, an NPA unit fired at CAFGU and 43rd IB troopers in Barangay Pagsang-an, San Roque during the last week of September.

The NPA-Albay ambushed a police unit aboard a vehicle along the highway of Barangay Cawayan, Manito on September 28. The police mobile overturned and two soldiers were wounded.

On the same day, the NPA-Mindoro ambushed elements of the

403rd Regional Mobile Force Battalion (RMFB) in Barangay Sta. Terecita, Mansalay, Oriental Mindoro. The wounded soldiers scrambled and left behind their transport. Red fighters torched the said vehicle. Simultaneously, another NPA unit attacked a detachment of the 403rd RMFB in Barangay Cabalwa in the same town.

The NPA-Mindoro mounted two sniping operations last September 16 and 22 against elements of the

203rd IBde occupying Barangay Monteclaro in San Jose, Occidental Mindoro.

The NPA-Central Panay blasted operating troopers of the 12th IB in Barangay Binulosan Piqueño Calinog, Iloilo on September 17. A day earlier, Red fighters harassed troopers conducting psywar ops in Barangay Masaroy under the guise of Retooled Community Support Program.

The NPA unit also reported two other harassment operations against 12th IB troopers in barangays Roosevelt and Tacayan in Tapaz, Capiz last August and July. A soldier was killed and two others were wounded.

In Barangay Baluan, Palimbang, Sultan Kudarat, at least three soldiers were killed in an encounter on July 26. A Red fighter was martyred during the firefight. AB



Facebook takes down Duterte-linked troll accounts

Facebook took down more than 100 accounts and pages operated by the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and Philippine National Police (PNP), as well as 100 pro-Duterte accounts found to be based in China, on September 22.

According to Facebook, these accounts were found to be involved in "coordinated inauthentic behaviour" in violation of its community standards. This means that the accounts were fake and were created to propagate fake news and influence public opinion.

These accounts peddle news and opinions related to local politics and the military, support the Duterte regime's policies especially the newly enacted Anti-Terrorism Law, and red-tag youth activists and government critics. These accounts is focused on demonizing the revolutionary armed movement as "terrorist." These trolls accounts deceive the people by twisting facts,

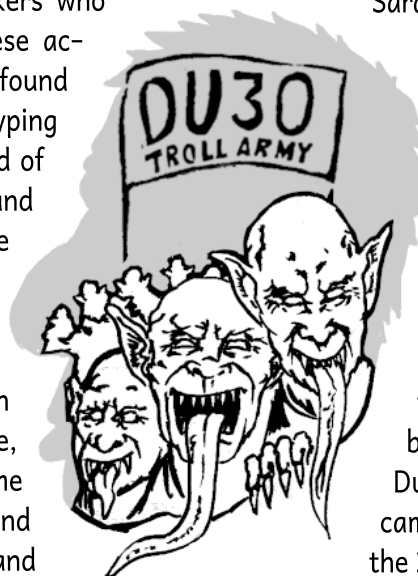
propagating lies and violence.

The China-based accounts specialize on propagating pro-China ideas and attacking government officials and lawmakers who oppose these. These accounts were also found to be involved in hyping the presidential bid of Sara Duterte and promoting Imee Marcos.

These accounts are clearly linked with the Duterte regime, AFP and PNP. Some accounts were found to be created and

directly administered by Capt. Alexandre Cabales, head of the AFP Social Media Center under the command of the Civil Military Operations Regiment. These pages include "Hands Off Our Children" which is being used by the military to red-tag youth activists, especially Kabataan Partylist Rep. Sarah Elago.

This was the fourth time that Facebook took down Duterte-linked accounts in two years. Twitter also once removed similar accounts in its platform. Among those taken down was the network operated by Nic Gabunda, Duterte's social media campaign manager during the 2016 elections. AB



Mega farms: Land consolidation for export production

The Duterte regime is putting forward various schemes purportedly to stimulate the agricultural sector. These include the Mega Farm and Food Security Program is touted to ensure food security during the pandemic.

The program aims to consolidate parcels of land tilled by individual farmers into mega farms which will specialize in producing certain crops for particular areas in the country supposedly to achieve economies of scale. The program is set to cover 217,120 hectares of public land.

Contrary to its name, the program will not ensure food security. The megafarms that will be set up are actually commercial plantations that will specialize on high value crops like bananas, cacao, cassava, coffee, oil palm, citrus, coconut, mango, onion, rice, seaweed, sugarcane and temperate vegetables. These crops are highly dependent on seeds, pesticides and fertilizers imported from capitalist countries.

Rice fields that have been rendered unproductive by rice liberalization will be covered by this program. Last August, the Asian Development Bank approved a \$400-million (₱20-billion) loan program supposedly to help displaced rice farmers. A portion of funds will be allocated to subsidize farmers in "transitioning" to planting high value crops. The regime implemented this loan program despite the need to ensure adequate local rice supplies after Vietnam and Thailand temporarily suspended rice exports to the Philippines in May.

Time and again, land consolidation for export crop production has been proven to pave the way for the reconcentration of land into

the hands of landlords to the detriment of farmers. In Negros and Central Luzon, this is being implemented through sugar block farming. In Mindanao, this takes the form of agribusiness venture arrangements (AVAs) between agrarian beneficiaries and companies operating commercial banana, pineapple, cacao and oil palm plantations.

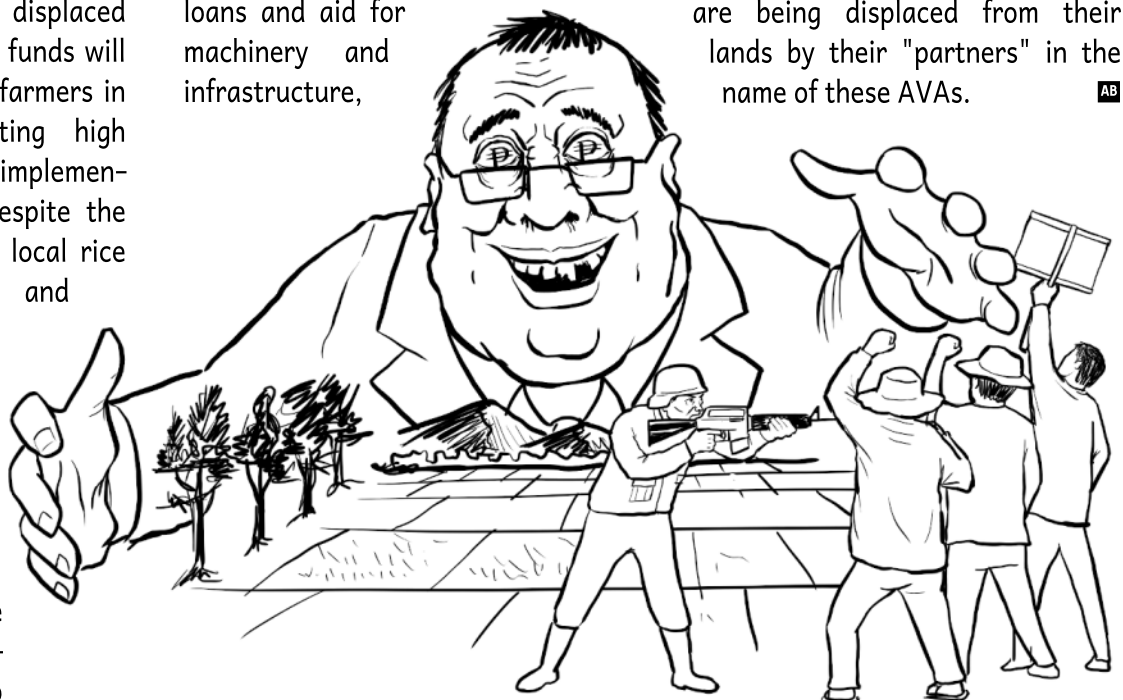
Under these schemes, landlords and big agricultural firms are not only able to exploit large tracts of land and resources but also the cheap labor of farmers. These arrangements subsume thousands of hectares of land for export production.

Last June, the World Bank admitted the "limitations" of sugar block farming and AVAs. In Negros, productivity in sugar block farms remained almost stagnant, backward, unmechanized and reliant on the labor of thousands of *sacadas*. Despite the almost P2-billion funding for the industry in the form of loans and aid for machinery and infrastructure,

the average output recorded was just 50-57 tons per hectare which was below the target 80-100 tons. According to the *Unyon ng mga Manggagawa sa Agrikultura*, these funds only further fattened the wallets of landlords, state and local officials.

Many farmers continue to work as farm workers in their own lands while receiving extremely low rent from agribusiness firms and landlords. In Tarlac, farmers are paid only P7,500 per 0.66 hectare of land per year, and receive measly wages as farm workers. Worse, farmers also lose their right to plant food crops to tide them over during non-harvest seasons.

In banana plantations in Mindanao, farmers are deep in debt to their "business partners" who exclusively supply them with production materials (seed, pesticide and fertilizers.) The farmers shoulder all costs of production and are obligated to pay even in times of calamities, drought or pestilence. They are bound by exploitative sale agreements wherein their products are bought at extremely low prices. Because of indebtedness, farmers are being displaced from their lands by their "partners" in the name of these AVAs. AB



Dependence on fertilizer imports dooms Philippine food security

The Covid-19 pandemic has further exposed the backward state of Philippine agriculture. Global agricultural production disruptions caused by lockdowns, quarantines, border controls and transportation production are aggravating the crisis in the local agricultural sector which is heavily dependent on imported inputs and is export-oriented. The food crisis, caused by decades of liberalization, monopoly of land ownership and lack of support for poor farmers, is even bound to worsen.

The absence of a self-sufficient fertilizer industry and low fertilizer consumption, especially in rice fields, corn fields and vegetable farms, are among the starkest manifestations of the non-industrial and agrarian backwardness of the Philippines. On average, the Philippines utilizes 157 kilograms of fertilizer per hectare of arable land. This is relatively low compared to that utilized in Vietnam (429.8 kg).

Fertilizer prices in the Philippines are extremely high relative to global average prices. The average price of urea, the most common type of fertilizer used by Filipino farmers, was P1,030 per 50-kg sack earlier in June this year. This is more than double the global average price of the commodity (P505) in the same month. Prices of other major grades of inorganic fertilizers including complete NPK (P1,072), ammonium sulfate (P586), ammonium phosphate (P961) and potassium chloride (P1,197) are similarly high compared to global average prices.

Relative to the national average, the most expensive fertilizers are being sold in Eastern Visayas, followed by Bicol. Both regions are mainly agricultural and the former also happens to be the fourth poorest region in the country.

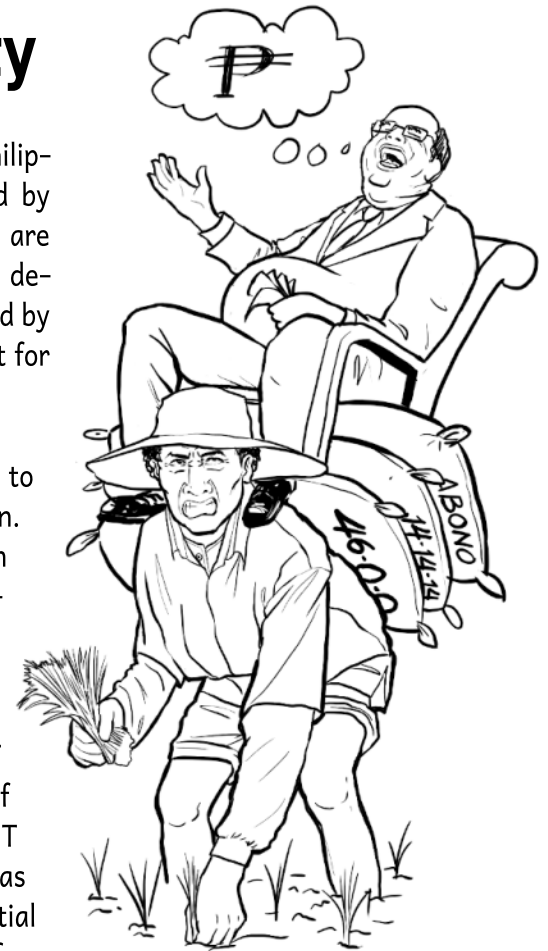
Farmers are left at the mercy of big foreign agrochemical corporations as fertilizers being sold in local markets are mostly imported. In 2018, the Philippines imported a total of 2.37 million metric tons

(MT) of fertilizer amounting to approximately P34.76 billion. This is equivalent to more than 75% of the total fertilizer supply (3.15 million MT) in the country during the same year.

In 2019, fertilizer imports further rose to 2.57 million MT amounting to P35.4 billion. Of this quantity, 40% (1 million MT amounting to P13 billion) was sourced from China. Substantial volumes were also imported from other Southeast Asian countries. The Philippines fully imports its urea supply as manufacturing plants are incapable of production. This was the biggest import (856,853 MT) in 2018. Urea (46-0-0) is widely used by farmers as it is non-toxic and easier to apply compared to other non-organic fertilizers.

Fertilizer importation has been practically limitless since quantitative restrictions and tariff were dismantled in the 1990s. These policies were implemented in compliance with the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade and the Agreement on Agriculture of World Trade Organization to liberalize agricultural trade. These neoliberal schemes have further doomed any possibility for the country to develop a self-sufficient fertilizer manufacturing industry and perpetuated its import-dependence.

On the other hand, local fertilizer production is limited to just four private agrochemical companies, namely Soiltech Agricultural Products (which has a capacity of



manufacturing 1 million MT/year), Atlas Fertilizer Corp. (230,000 MT), Farmfix Fertilizer (50,000 MT), and International Chemical Industries Inc. (22,000 MT). These companies are limited to blending raw materials such as phosphate rocks, anhydrous ammonia and sulfuric acid which they fully import from other countries, primarily China.

Currently, disruptions caused by the Covid-19 pandemic on the production of fertilizers across the globe pose a formidable challenge to the local agricultural sector. Last August, the global average price of urea sharply increased from just P536 in July to P624 per sack. The average recorded in 2019 was just P543.75.

This crisis will primarily affect palay farmers as 38% of the total fertilizer consumption goes to rice, followed by corn (21%), and fruits and vegetables (7%), and result in lower yields, hence, less food supplies for the people in the coming months.

AB

Duterte's butchers are on rampage

Four barangay officials and a resident were killed by state forces in Bicol in just a week. A farmer in Negros and two Lumads in Sultan Kudarat also experienced intense brutality in the hands of the military. All of the victims were tagged as members of the New People's Army (NPA).

In Masbate, three civilians were abducted in separate places by the 2nd IB and the 1st Masbate Police Mobile Force Company on September 26 and brought to Barangay Alas, Mandaon where they were summarily killed two days later at around 5:30 a.m..

The victims were identified as businessman Jerry Regala of Barangay Dalipe, Cawayan who was abducted while delivering rice supplies; and village councilors Judy Barruga and Joey Asne who were abducted at their homes in Barangay Cajunday, Baleno. Rifles and explosives were planted in their possession to make it appear that they were killed in an encounter. This is the fifth massacre perpetrated by state forces in Masbate under Duterte.

A few hours after the incident, the police illegally arrested a motorist Ronald Azucena at a checkpoint in Barangay Dayao in the same town. He was planted with a firearm and was brought to and detained at the Mandaon police station.

In Guinobatan, Albay, the 49th IB murdered Barangay Batbat captain Luzviminda Dayandante and treasurer Albert Orbina in an ambush in Barangay Sinungtan on September 21. Prior to the killing, the two actively exposed the abuses perpetrated by the said unit in their barrio. More than 30 villages are currently occupied by the 49th IB in the province.

On September 25, the 49th IB indiscriminately fired their weapons near a school in Barangay Oma-oma, Ligao City to make it appear that they encountered an NPA unit in the area. Because of this, teachers who were preparing for the opening of classes were forced to

evacuate.

In Negros Occidental, soldiers of the 94th IB beheaded farmer Bernardo Guillen, 50, in Barangay Tan-awan, Kabankalan City on September 17. Before he was killed, the soldiers encountered an NPA unit near his farm. He immediately evacuated with his family but decided to return to salvage belongings which they left. He went missing for three days until his decomposing and decapitated body was found near the site of encounter..

In Sultan Kudarat, the 37th IB killed two Lumad residents of Sitio Loboc, Barangay Sta. Clara, Kalamansig in the evening of September 4. The victims were catching frogs when they were gunned down.

Earlier on September 2, soldiers also mauled motorists Renato Angulin, Jun-jun Mandong and Cris Macagarsi at Sitio Lower Nursery in the same barangay.

Fake surrender. In Negros Occidental, the 79th IB forced 63 residents of Barangay Sta. Rosa, Murcia to "surrender" last September 21. Officials of the said unit are believed to have pocketed at least P4 million. On the other hand, "surrenderees" were only given 5 kilos of rice each.

In the Mindoro island, hundreds of Buhid minorities, including minors, were also coerced to surrender by the 203rd Brigade in the towns of Bongabong, San Jose, Mansalay at Rizal. Residents were lured by soldiers to go their camp to receive relief goods. During the relief distribution, residents were interrogated and forced to surrender.

Disregarding health protocols against Covid-19, the 50th IB forced residents of three barangays

in Pinukpuk, Kalinga to participate in rallies on September 22-24. Villages in Balbalan, Lubuagan, Pasil and Tabuk are currently occupied by the military. Deception, harassment and forced surrenders are prevalent in these areas.

Illegal arrest. Police and soldiers held and arrested four civilians at a checkpoint in Barangay Alingasaw, Moises Padilla, Negros Oriental on October 2. They were with firearms and explosives to justify the arrest. The victims were identified as human rights defender Wilmar Pognasi, Leoltren Trinidad, and two habal-habal drivers. AB

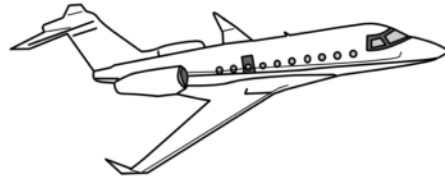


Impending demolition amid pandemic

RESIDENTS OF BARANGAY 654 in Intramuros, Manila mounted a picket last September 24 to oppose the impending demolition of their houses. In response, MGen. Debold Sinas deployed police forces in the area that even- ing to suppress the resistance of residents.

In Tondo, about 5,000 residents are bound to be evicted from their houses at the Katuparan Housing Project in Vitas, Tondo, Manila. The residents received a notice last September 1 ordering them to vacate their houses within 15 days.

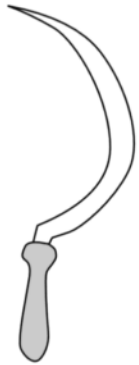
₱2 billion



₱194,996

will be spent per flight hour in operating this.

Squandered by Duterte in procuring a Gulfstream G280 business jet from the US.



₱28,000-₱30,000 PER FARMER

(a total of P75-P80 billion) losses incurred during the first year implementation of the Rice Liberalization Law

₱51.5 billion



budgetary requirement to ensure a 1:1 student to module ratio. The P 15-billion allocation for module printing in 2021 is extremely meager.

66th out of 99 countries

Philippine ranking in Covid-19 response measured in terms of being scientific and evidence-based, according to The Lancet medical journal.



Võ Nguyên Giáp

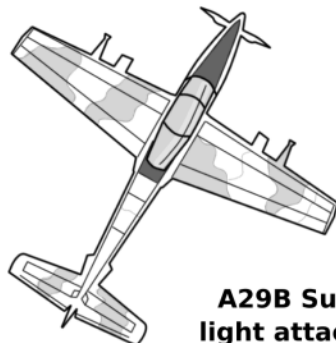
August 25, 1911-October 04, 2013

“ This war has brought into play new forms of struggle: **combined political and armed struggle** in the **mountainous regions** in the **countryside**, in the **cities**. These forms of struggle are **mobilizing** ever more broadly the **masses** of our people **against the aggressor**.”

₱180



price per Beep card which bus passengers in EDSA were required to buy during the start of October.



6

A29B Super Tucano light attack aircrafts were delivered to the country from Brazil.

₱1 billion

lost from the procurement of **overpriced PPE** from **Chinese Companies** from **April to May**. According to the Philippine General Hospital, the regime could have bought the supplies for as low as **₱1200-₱1500** each but opted to buy from China at **₱1,700-₱2,000** each.

Tatay Yulo's secret

This article is part of Ang Bayan's series recognizing the daily heroism of the toiling masses in advancing the national democratic revolution. Ang Bayan enjoins all units of the Party, people's army and revolutionary mass organizations to submit stories depicting the resilience, courage and militance of the toiling masses in the face of the reactionary state's heightened attacks to suppress the raging people's war.

Walking downstream through a river, Tatay Yulo noticed something submerged in water and sand. At first, he thought that it was a piece of rubber boot. He picked up the object and was surprised to see that it was an M16 rifle complete with ammunition. He placed the firearm inside a sack and waited until evening before returning home. The barrio where he resides is one of the areas in Mindanao where the New People's Army (NPA) operates.

Several months before finding the rifle, an encounter between the people's army and military took place near the river. After the encounter, soldiers besieged and occupied Tatay Yulo's community under the guise of "delivering services to conflict-affected areas." Tatay Yulo, however, was aware that the program ultimately aims to deceive people and force them to surrender. He witnessed how other villagefolk were lured into signing attendance sheets during military assemblies which were later used to claim that they surrendered.

In other barrios and cities, soldiers boast of stories about growing number of "surrenderees." Over the past weeks, the Eastern Mindanao Command touted that more than 200 "surrendered," yielded their firearms and pledged to live peaceful lives. Tatay Yulo was aware that this was merely a manipulative scheme of the military and the Duterte government.

He somehow felt apprehensive that his secret might be uncovered by soldiers anytime. He was aware that people found to be in possession of firearms often end up in serious trouble. He knew that he could be arrested, tortured or killed by soldiers.

However, his conviction to serve the revolution remained firm. He

proved that his principles can never be suppressed by fascists.

After a few months, a unit of Red fighters stopped by his house and requested to stay there temporarily. He has long waited for this opportunity. After welcoming the Red fighters with handshake, Tatay excitedly handed over the sack which he hid beneath his house to the NPA commander.

"I am not sure if this belongs to you or to the enemy. But since this

is a weapon, this should be given to comrades," said Ka Yulo while handing over the rifle.

Little did Tatay Yulo know that the M16 rifle was formerly issued to Ka Mando, a Red fighter who was martyred during the encounter in the area, three months ago. Comrades were able to retrieve the body of Ka Mando and thought that his firearm has already been seized by the enemies.

The rifle is now issued to another Red fighter who carries on in waging the indefatigable armed revolution. AB



Groups commemorate 48th year of martial law

VARIOUS ORGANIZATIONS MOUNTED activities last September 21 to commemorate the 48th anniversary of the declaration of martial law by the Marcos dictatorship in 1972. More than 2,000 protested at the University of the Philippines-Diliman in Quezon City with the theme "Fight tyranny! Oust Duterte!" They said that the dire situation at present is not different from the situation under the Marcos dictatorship.

Similar protests were mounted in Naga City, Legazpi City and Sorsogon City. In Iloilo City, Mayor Jerry Treñas, who was arrested during martial law, participated in the program. He said that more activists are needed today to defend democracy and human rights.

Mobilizations were also conducted in Baguio City, Angeles City, Davao City, Cebu City, Capiz, Kabankalan, and in communities in Kalibo and New Washington, Aklan.

In the US, Bayan-USA conducted and the Malaya Movement conducted a candle lighting ceremony in front of the US Capitol, Washington DC, for all the victims of the Marcos dictatorship and the fascist Duterte regime.

Rice farmers demand subsidy

THE KILUSANG MAGBUBUKID ng Pilipinas (KMP) demanded the Duterte regime to subsidize *palay* farmers to save them from bankruptcy amid falling farmgate prices of *palay*. According to KMP, the regime may use the ₱10.727 billion in rice import taxes that it was able to collect to aid approximately 72,800 peasant families. This October, the farmgate price of *palay* fell to ₱10-14 per kg.

Meanwhile on October 1, peasant groups launched a campaign to promote agroecology, a farming approach which centers on food production that makes use of nature while not destroying resources. The campaign is spearheaded by Pesticide Action Network Asia Pacific in coordination with the Unyon ng Manggagawa sa Agrikultura, SAKA and MASIPAG.

US bill to block military funding

THE COMMUNIST PARTY Of the Philippines (CPP) welcomed the Philippine Human Rights Act introduced by US Congress Rep. Susan Wild on September 17. The bill aims to block US funding for the Philippine military and police over widespread reports of human rights violations.

Wild described the Duterte regime as "brutal" which she said has intensified attacks against trade unionists, workers and its rivals. The bill was co-sponsored by 24 other lawmakers.

The Philippines received the highest US military aid in East and Southeast Asia over the past 4 years. The Duterte regime has received a total of \$554 million in military aid from the US since 2016.

AFP bombing ravages forest

OVER THE PAST two years, the Duterte regime has incessantly utilized its attack planes and helicopters from the US to bomb civilian communities. Aside from terrorizing residents, these attacks also cause massive destruction of forests.

This October, the New People's Army-Surigao del Sur posted several images showing the damage caused to forests by indiscriminate bombings perpetrated by the Armed Forces of the Philippines. Earlier, various NPA units in the province reported four bombings perpetrated by the Eastern Mindanao Command in May and July. Using FA-50 fighter jets, AgustaWestland and MG-520 helicopters, artilleries and drones, the military bombed barangays Libas Sud and Siagao in San Miguel on Mayo 14 and 18; Diatagon in Lianga on July 7; and Anahaw Daan in Tago on July 14.

The 401st, 402nd at 901st IBde currently occupy villages in Cortez, Lanuza, Carmen, Cantilan, San Miguel, Tago and Lianga.



Trump incites fascism during US Presidential Debate

US PRESIDENT DONALD Trump was met with criticism after openly inciting violence and racism during the US Presidential Debate 2020 last September 29. Aside from repeatedly insulting and interrupting his rival, Democratic Party nominee Joe Biden, his fascist stance on the continuing Black Lives Matter protests was also highlighted during the debate.

He deflected a debate question about whether he condemns white supremacists who were involved harassing protesters in recent weeks. Instead of answering, he blamed activists and insisted that something has to be done to them. He ordered the Proud Boys paramilitary

group to "stand back and stand by." Members of the said group are among the paramilitary groups that are conducting armed patrols in areas where mobilizations are being conducted. They directly assault and harass protesters. Trump, however, is making it appear

that the political opposition is responsible for what he calls "violent protests" and not his paramilitary supporters.

After being widely criticized not only by Democrats but also his fellow Republicans, Trump was forced to condemn the Proud Boys and other white supremacists after two days.

The US presidential election is scheduled on November 3. Meanwhile, Trump was reportedly infected with Covid-19 last October 2.