



EDITORIAL

Take a big stride forward

The Filipino people have suffered relentless beating and oppression under the Duterte regime's militarist and anti-people response to the Covid-19 pandemic and successive calamities. The rotten regime abandoned its obligation to address the health and economic needs of the people. It intensified repression and imposed measures which worsened poverty and hunger.

Fearing a people's upsurge amid crisis similar to those in other countries, Rodrigo Duterte used deception and intimidation on the one hand; and violence and armed suppression, on the other. The past months saw intensified suppression of the mass media and red-tagging, and the campaign to sow disinformation, lies and trash talk.

At the same time, Duterte used the longest "lockdown" and restrictions on people's freedoms, and surveillance, imprisonment and successive murder of known revolutionaries, mass leaders and activists. Worse, he railroaded the new terror law which effectively imposes fascist dictatorship without declar-

ing martial law.

The ultimate aim using these tactics of psywar and suppression is to aggravate the national democratic forces and mass organizations, and get them occupied with defending their rights, safety and lives. This aims to prevent them from voicing out the people's grievances, paralyze the democratic mass movement and prevent street demonstrations from mounting.

Duterte is confusing the people's mind to scatter their attention and draw their consciousness away from their main and urgent problems resulting from his regime's corruption, neglect of the masses and prioritization of the in-

terests of a few.

Over the past months, the people's outrage has been prevented from flaring up into widespread demonstrations against the ills, crimes and neglect of the Duterte regime of its obligations to the people amid the pandemic. Among these are the slashing of the budget for health and disaster response, lack of free and reliable Covid-19 testing, lack of subsidies for those who lost their jobs and income in the cities and for peasants in the countryside, low wages for nurses and failure to employ additional nurses in public hospitals, prioritizing the purchase of helicopters, fighter jets, the private jet for Duterte and his generals, bombs and other war matériel, allowing the reduction of workers' wages, corruption in the purchase of personal protective equipment and medical provisions, corruption in PhilHealth, handing over pandemic

response leadership to generals instead of doctors, overaccumulation of loans for oligarch's infrastructure projects, planning to impose new taxes and other measures that will worsen the burden and poverty of the people.

Based on the anti-people and anti-poor 2021 budget set to be approved by the reactionary congress, the people's sufferings are set to even worsen. It continues to prioritize the military and its dirty war against the people, the business of oligarchs, corruption and favors for his minions and political loyalists and preparations for the 2022 election; while the people's livelihood, public health and education remain neglected.

The Filipino people must unleash a widespread and intense protest movement in the coming months against the oppressive and burdensome policies. Raising protest is the key to preventing new taxes and other policies and measures that will worsen the people's lives.

The national democratic forces

must strengthen their efforts in arousing, organizing and mobilizing the broad masses of workers, peasants, youth, health workers, the unemployed, professionals and other sectors hard hit by the economic crisis.

While they defend against the attacks of the Duterte regime, they must firmly take hold of the people's burning issues. Strive to unite the whole people on a clear and simple set of urgent demands in the face of the pandemic, calamities and economic crisis. Expose the anti-people and anti-people US-Duterte regime and the rotten core of the ruling system.

There must be untiring propaganda using forms that directly reach the masses while effectively countering disinformation in mass media and social media. The mass organizations must be expanded and strengthened severalfold to enable the masses to voice out and raise their grievances and demands.





Experiences must be studied, assessed and summed up to develop

strengths and overcome weaknesses in efforts to arouse, organize and mobilize the people in their hundreds of thousands or millions in the face of the pandemic and calamities, and in face of the relentless fascist suppression and brutality of the tyrannical regime.

On the basis of an assessment of work in the past years and taking stock of current strength, tasks and plans must be laid out for the coming year. These must serve the objective of uniting the masses of the people and unleash a widespread upsurge of protests and struggles to advance the interests of the masses.

Strengthen the unity and determination of the national democratic forces to shoulder the difficult tasks despite the threats of suppression and restrictions behind the veil of pandemic response.

In a few weeks, the Party will mark its 52nd anniversary. The broad masses and their revolutionary forces anticipate this as an occasion to celebrate their achievements of the past year, assess their strength and lay out plans to attain bigger revolutionary victories for 2021. AB

<div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Vol. LI No. 23 December 7, 2020</p> <hr/> <p>Ang <i>Ang Bayan</i> is published in Pilipino, Bisaya, Iloko, Hiligaynon, Waray and English. Ang Bayan welcomes contributions in the form of articles and news items. Readers are encouraged to send feedback and recommendations for improving our newspaper.</p> <p>  instagram.com/prwcnewsroom  @prwc_info  cppinformationbureau@gmail.com </p> </div>	<h2 style="text-align: center; text-decoration: underline;">Contents</h2> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td>Editorial: Take a big stride forward</td><td style="text-align: right;">1</td></tr> <tr><td>Dismantle the NTF-ELCAC</td><td style="text-align: right;">2</td></tr> <tr><td>Prices surge despite weak demand</td><td style="text-align: right;">3</td></tr> <tr><td>Nexperia workers' CBA approved</td><td style="text-align: right;">3</td></tr> <tr><td>Mass for thanksgiving and solidarity</td><td style="text-align: right;">3</td></tr> <tr><td>Successive disasters in 2020</td><td style="text-align: right;">4</td></tr> <tr><td>157th Bonifacio Day</td><td style="text-align: right;">5</td></tr> <tr><td>NPA-NEMR ambush</td><td style="text-align: right;">5</td></tr> <tr><td>Protests in Guatemala and France</td><td style="text-align: right;">5</td></tr> <tr><td>Unabated against NDFP consultants</td><td style="text-align: right;">6</td></tr> <tr><td>Military treats remains of NPA as trophy</td><td style="text-align: right;">6</td></tr> <tr><td>Nursing mother arrested</td><td style="text-align: right;">7</td></tr> <tr><td>No efficient vaccination program</td><td style="text-align: right;">7</td></tr> <tr><td>In short</td><td style="text-align: right;">8</td></tr> <tr><td>Overcoming the pandemic in Cuba</td><td style="text-align: right;">9</td></tr> <tr><td>Protesta sa France laban sa pasismo</td><td style="text-align: right;">10</td></tr> </table>	Editorial: Take a big stride forward	1	Dismantle the NTF-ELCAC	2	Prices surge despite weak demand	3	Nexperia workers' CBA approved	3	Mass for thanksgiving and solidarity	3	Successive disasters in 2020	4	157th Bonifacio Day	5	NPA-NEMR ambush	5	Protests in Guatemala and France	5	Unabated against NDFP consultants	6	Military treats remains of NPA as trophy	6	Nursing mother arrested	7	No efficient vaccination program	7	In short	8	Overcoming the pandemic in Cuba	9	Protesta sa France laban sa pasismo	10
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Dismantle the NTF-ELCAC!

Around 100 activists protested in Quezon City on December 4 to call for the **dismantling of the NTF-ELCAC and the realignment of its budget to social services**. Its budget is not only used for red-tagging, but is also used as a milking cow by the regime's generals and anti-communist propagandists. They asserted that the budget would be put to better use if utilized to aid people, buy vaccines, or subsidize students who are experiencing difficulties under the online and blended learning system.

Prices surge despite weak demand

In June, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas announced that the inflation rate will most likely remain low saying that demand is weak due to the pandemic. Despite this, inflation rates already went up three times this year (July, October and November.) According to latest data, inflation recently rose by 3.3%, with food prices registering the steepest increase.

In reality, household expenditures went down for the first time in the last two decades, by up to 13% in the second quarter and 7% during the third quarter of the year compared to the same period in 2019. Demand fell due to income losses since the lockdown was imposed. These losses are yet to be recovered.

From March to October this year, education and personal services, provided mostly by the informal sector, dropped. Expenditures on alcohol and tobacco, household appliances, recreation and food prepared outside homes also dropped. The worst decline was in transportation (62% on the second quarter and 21% on the third quarter). Amid the pandemic, health expenses went down (-9%) despite requirements for sanitation, testing and resistance building.

Meanwhile, food expenditures rose by 6%, same as in previous years, despite supply disruptions, intermittent price increases and decrease in food consumption outside homes.

Communication expenses rose slightly, despite the implementation of online classes and work-from-home arrangements. Filipinos spent more during the same period in 2018-2019.

Payment for house rent and utilities (electricity, water, others) rose by 7% despite private companies' initial promise to suspend collections.

On the other hand, rice imports fell by 13.3% compared to 2015, according to a US agricultural agency (Global Agricultural Information Network). This is despite the government authorizing the importation of 3.73 million metric tons (MT) from January to May which is 43% more compared to the same period last year. Only 1.65 million MT arrived in the country due to exportation restrictions in major rice-producing countries.

Philippine consumption of beef also fell by 21%. Based on patterns in the past months, pork consumption dropped by 20% (worsened by the African Swine Fever pandemic) and poultry production fell by 15%. Consumption of milk, which is 99% imported, also decreased.

According to data by BSP last September, the income of families remained inadequate even after the economy reopened. Most people's savings have been depleted. Families who had the ability to save up fell from 37.8% during the first quarter of the year to 24.7% during the third.

According to government statistics, food prices permanently increased especially after implementation of the TRAIN Law.

From 2016 to 2019, prices of vegetables such as bitter melon, eggplant, squash, tomatoes, carrots, string beans and potatoes increased, as well as prices of fish such as milkfish, scad and tilapia.

Contrary to government promises that rice prices will fall when the Rice Importation Liberalization Law was implemented, it actually rose from ₱41.72/kilo in 2016 to ₱42.73/kilo in 2019, and ₱45/kilo this year. Despite unbridled importation, and *palay* farmgate prices continue to drop as low as ₱7 to ₱12/kilo. AB

Nexperia workers' CBA approved

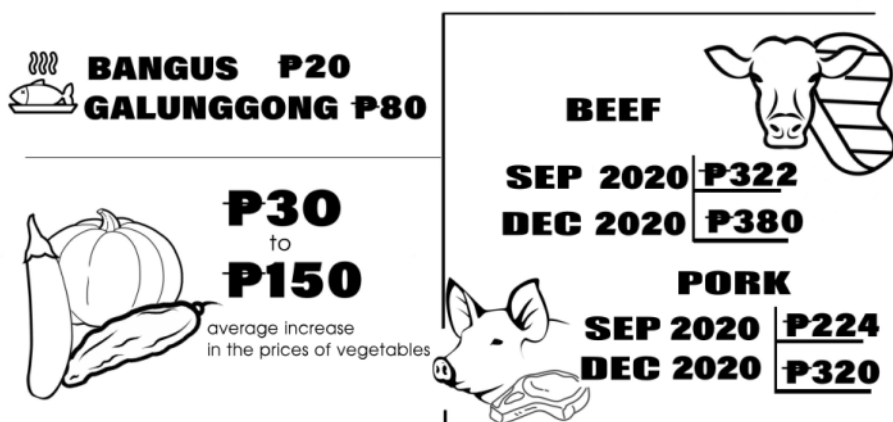
Nexperia workers' successfully asserted their demands as stipulated in their collective bargaining agreement (CBA) with the company management. Among the benefits they will receive are the retroactive pay for workers for the **six-month lockdown period, as well as a wage increase this coming 2021.** Workers attributed this victory to their successive protests, including a silent protest on November 24 to defend their jobs and demand for protection amid the pandemic.

Mass for thanksgiving and solidarity

Residents of Barangay Barangay IV-C, Marikina held a thanksgiving and solidarity mass on December 5 to recognize organizations which helped them during the recent calamity and **resist anti-environment projects.** Earlier on November 21 and 25, residents protested at the Freedom Park in the same city. Approximately 30-billion worth of properties and livelihoods were destroyed in the city alone.

SEPTEMBER 2020 - DECEMBER 5, 2020

INCREASES IN PRICE OF FOOD COMMODITIES PER KILO



Successive disasters in 2020

Prior to 2020, the Philippines has already been in various list of countries considered most vulnerable to the impact of climate change. The Philippines has long been facing threats of natural disasters due to its location. Today, however, the damages these cause on the people has become worse due to the catastrophic response of the local ruling class.

Approximately 19 to 20 tropical cyclones enter the Philippine area of responsibility per year, with about six to nine making landfall. This is because the country faces the Pacific Ocean where 60% of typhoons in the world originate.

Due to climate change, natural calamities now lash the country five times more than in 1980. It has also aggravated the impact of calamities today. The worst typhoons which hit the country is the past decade include Sendong (2011), Pablo (2012), Yolanda (2013), Glenda (2014) and Ompong (2018). The combined damage caused by these typhoons amount to ₱216 billion, with nearly 13,000 deaths.

Just this October to November, four strong typhoons successively hit the country resulting in 115 deaths and a conservative estimate of losses amounting to ₱45 billion. These include the supertyphoon Rolly which is considered the strongest tropical cyclone in the world this year. These typhoons resulted in massive floodings in the country which was last experienced in 2009, as well as landslides.

Global warming

Earlier, experts announced that

the country would experience La Niña in the last quarter of the year after almost a decade. Due to the cooling of the Pacific Ocean, the country was expected to experience more typhoons with heavier intensities. The typhoons were expected to bring in volumes of water which could cause floods, landslides and overflowing of water in dams and rivers.

More frequent occurrence of La Niña phenomena which cause strong typhoons is one of the impacts of climate change which is the consequence of decades of capitalist environmental destruction.

Climate change is largely attributed to the emission of greenhouse gases. These gases (primarily carbon dioxide) are concentrated in the atmosphere and traps heat, thereby resulting in higher global temperature which disrupts the climate energy balance of the world.

The year 2020 is listed as the third hottest year on record. If the production of fossil fuel, gas and carbon will not be decreased by 6% annually, the earth is set to face grave environmental disaster. The said industries are largely responsible for global warming. These are mainly controlled by countries

which serve as centers of capitalism including China, US and the European Union.

In the Philippines, these gases are largely emitted by coal-fired power plants. This October, 22 more plants were allowed to operate in the country in addition to 28 operational plants. The regime also sold off carbon reserves in Zamboanga Sibugay. Massive denudation and mining of forests are also among the top contributors of green house gas emission.

Pandemics, epidemics and other disasters

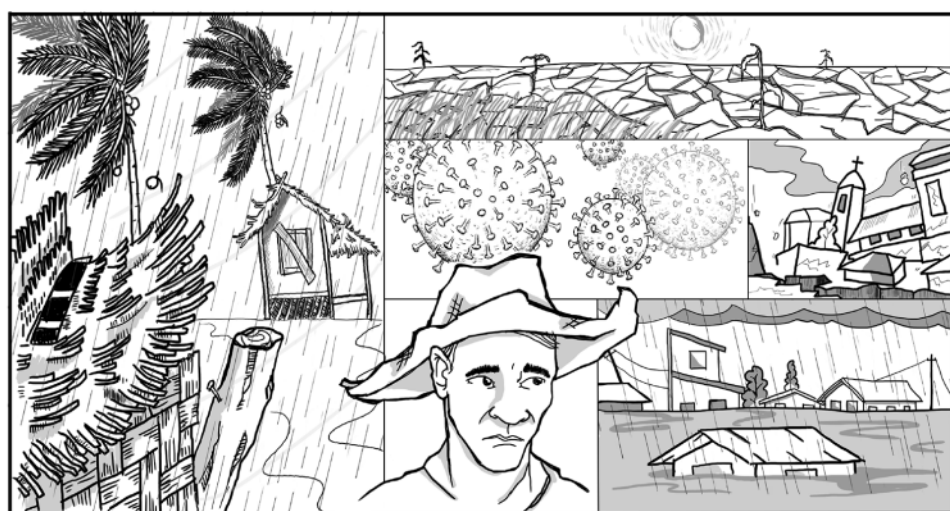
Meanwhile, Covid-19, which was first detected in the country in March, has already infected more than 400,000 individuals and killed more than 8,500.

The start of 2020 was also marked by the eruption of the Taal Volcano in Batangas which forced more than 168,000 to evacuate. This has also caused damages amounting to more than ₱4.3 billion.

Earthquakes have also become more frequent and stronger. In recent years, the country experiences only nine up to 18 earthquakes annually with varying magnitudes. From a daily average of 2.2 in 2011, this has surged to 35 per day this year. Only five earthquakes with magnitudes 6 and above were recorded in 2011; today we are experiencing eight.

Due to massive floodings, leptospirosis cases also rose. Within three weeks, since November 12, leptospirosis cases at one hospital reached 89, more than half of the 163 cases it recorded since January.

On February, the African Swine Fever pandemic began to spread and infect pigs and continues to affect various provinces. More than 5,000 local hogs have been infected with the said disease.



Hold Duterte accountable, defend people's livelihoods!

More than 6,000 individuals led by the Kilusang Mayo Uno protested at the University of the Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City on November 30. They demanded for safety, jobs and respect for human rights.

They opposed the regime's continuing red-tagging campaign and Anti-Terror Law which are being used to suppress its critics. They noted that military officials utilized the Senate hearing on November 24 to peddle false information and lies about legitimate democratic organizations and Congress representatives.

In conjunction with the commemoration of Andres Bonifacio's birthday, youth activists marked the 22nd anniversary of Anakbayan. They pledged to advance Bonifacio's fight for national democracy and liberation.

Activists also protested at the Malcolm Square in Baguio City. They opposed the contract granted by the local government to SM Prime Holdings for the renovation of the Baguio City Market. They criticized local officials for disregarding local vendors' petition against

it. The protesters also opposed the red-tagging campaign against activists in the region.

Simultaneously, protest actions were also held in the towns of Sta. Rosa, Cabuyao and Calamba in Laguna, and at Plaza Miranda in Angeles City, Pampanga. In Panay, a protest was conducted by Kadamay in Jaro, Iloilo, as well as in Kalibo, Aklan and Roxas City, Capiz. Bayan-Negros also mounted a protest in Bacolod City. Tension rose during the protests in Mandauae City, Cebu and Balanga, Bataan when the police harassed the rallyists. In Davao City, the Kilusang Mayo Uno-Southern Mindanao led the protest actions at the Bankerohan Public Market and Freedom Park, Roxas Avenue.

The 56th anniversary of the Kabataang Makabayan was also commemorated during the same day. AB

NPA-NEMR ambushes butcher police and soldiers

THE NEW PEOPLE'S Army (NPA)-Agusan del Norte ambushed operating troops of the 29th IB in the mountainous portion of Barangay Bangonay, Jabonga, Agusan del Norte. A certain Master Sergeant Aberto was killed in action, while another officer died in the hospital.

The said unit was conducting focused military operations in the said barangay since November 12. Residents complained about the soldiers for threatening them and disrupting peace the area.

Another unit of the NPA-Surigao del Norte ambushed elements of the Philippine National Police (PNP)-Sison aboard a police mobile patrolling in Barangay Mayag, Sison. A police was wounded. The PNP-Sison was behind the killing of businessman Josefino "Lalo" Calang on November 26, and a Red fighter's father earlier in September.



Protest in Guatemala against neoliberalism

SEVERAL THOUSANDS PROTESTED in Guatemala City, Guatemala on November 21 following the passage of the national budget by its Congress. To manifest their rage over massive cuts for health and education, the rallyists set a part of the Congress building on fire. They also brought a guillotine to symbolize their resistance. Thousands also protested in various city and town centers across the country to demand the junking of the national budget and resignation of corrupt government officials.

They criticized Pres. Alejandro Giammattei for prioritizing the construction of big infrastructure projects over social and economic services for the people amid the Covid-19 pandemic. The country was also pummeled by two strong typhoons in recent months.

Protests in France against fascism

MORE THAN 50,000 converged in various urban centers across France on November 28 to oppose the repressive security bill which was recently railroaded by Pres. Emmanuel Macron. The said bill will restrict taking images and videos of police officers and strengthen government surveillance tools. A week earlier, more than 500,000 protested in France after a video showing three police officers mauling Black musician Michel Zecler in Paris went viral on social media. The protests are continuing despite Macron's statement that he will withdraw the bill.

GRP's unabated attacks against NDFP consultants

The Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) strongly condemned the US-Duterte regime's unabated attacks against revolutionary forces and the Filipino people in its dirty war. During the last week of November, it successively attacked five peace consultants of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) in violation of the the Joint Agreement on Safety and Immunity Guarantees (JASIG).

On November 25, at around 3 a.m., police elements raided the house of couple Eugenia Magpantay and Agaton Topacio in Angono Rizal and killed them in cold-blood. Both are 69 years old and suffering from various infirmities such as diabetes and rheumatoid arthritis. They were most likely fast asleep when they were murdered. Both were former Party officials who retired recently due to health problems.

The butchers were so infuriated at the couple that they had not given them any chance to live. However, the couple will never be forgotten by the oppressed and exploited masses, especially those in Central Luzon, for their nearly four

decades of revolutionary service. Magpantay was a former member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee who was among the leading communist cadres who convened the 2nd Congress of the Party in 2016. Topacio was a member of the NPA's National Operational Command and served as secretary general of the Central Luzon Regional Party Committee.

The CPP also denounced the unjust conviction of Benito Tiamzon and Wilma Austria who were sentenced to life imprisonment by the court in Quezon City last November 27. The conviction was based on the trumped up charges of kidnapping and illegal detention which were

slapped against them. This was in relation to the arrest of then Lt. Abraham Casis (now a retired general) and five other soldiers who were held as prisoners-of war (POWs) by the NPA-Southern Tagalog way back in 1988. Disarming and arresting military elements as POWs is a legitimate act of war.

Meanwhile, state forces also arrested former NDFP consultant Alfredo Mapano while working at Phividec in Tagoloan, Misamis Oriental on November 27. Mapano was earlier released in 2016 after being detained for more than seven years to participate in peace negotiations in Norway. Mapano laid low and worked at the said company after the Duterte regime ended the peace negotiations. The Philippine Ecumenical Peace Platform raised concerns over the traitorous arrest of Mapano who already availed of the surrender and "reconciliation" program of the reactionary state. **AB**

Military treats remains of NPA as trophy

THE ARMED FORCES of the Philippines (AFP) desecrated the remains of Jevilyn Cullamat, a member of the New People's Army (NPA) who was killed during an encounter in Marihatag, Surigao del Sur on November 28. The 3rd Special Forces Battalion published a photo in their media reports and social media accounts where soldiers posed behind the corpse like a hunting trophy.

Jevilyn was the youngest daughter of Bayan Muna Rep. Eufemia Cullamat. "I love my daughter who loves the nation. I am proud of her. She is a hero of the Lumad people and the nation," said her mother.

The desecration of the remains of those who have died in the course of armed conflict and harassment of their relatives is against the international rules of war. The NTF-ELCAC is using the incident to

maliciously red-tag Bayan Muna and coerce it to denounce communism and the armed struggle. Its representatives refused to do so and instead called on the regime to address the root causes of the armed conflict.

Such desecration is not new to the AFP. Earlier in May 13, the 23rd IB publicly displayed the remains of 10 Red fighters in a populous village in Gingoog City. The casualties were

slain during an aerial bombing operation. They made the residents line up to view the heavily mutilated corpses.

The military also photographed and posted the corpses of minors Jhun Mark Acto, 15, who was killed by soldiers in Davao del Sur earlier in April 2018; and another 16-year old boy in Barangay Manila de Bugabos, Butuan City in Nobyembre 2019. They made it appear the the minors were NPA members.

Websites and social media accounts administered by the AFP are filled with photographs portraying the desecration of the remains of civilians and Red fighters who were killed by soldiers. **AB**

Nursing mother activist, 4 others arrested and tagged as NPA members

State forces arrested Amanda Lacaba Echanis along with her one-month old infant son at a house in Barangay Carupian, Baggao, Cagayan on December 2. Echanis is a member of Amihan and an organizer of peasant women.

Echanis is currently detained at Camp Adduro in Tuguegarao City based on trumped up charges of illegal possession of firearms and explosives. She is the daughter of the slain National Democratic Front of the Philippines consultant Randall Echanis.

According to Karapatan, the National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict (NTF-ELCAC) paid fake "witnesses" to testify against Echanis. Simultaneously, state forces raided the house of Isabelo Adviento, chairperson of the Danggayang-Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas.

The police also arrested transport union organizer Jose Bernardino in Sapang Maisac, Mexico, Pampanga on December 4. He was charged with a trumped up charge of rebellion.

On the same day, state forces arrested Marilou Tan in San Roque, Tinambac, Camarines Sur. She was charged with illegal possession of firearms and explosives. Both victims were arrested in the early morning.

In Albay, state forces arrested 72-year old farmer Ronaldo Ogama at his house in Barangay Batbat, Guinobatan on November 17. He was accused of being a member of the New People's Army (NPA).

In Kitaotao, Bukidnon, the 16th IB arrested and tortured 17-year old farmer Ruben Dano on November 19 in Barangay Balaungigay. After the incident, the soldiers also tortured six other Lumad farmers and senior citizen Carlito Sordilla.

In Surigao del Norte, the 29th IB arrested Datu Danilo Kalinawan

in Barangay Cawilan, Tubod in the early morning of December 2. His family is yet to be informed about his whereabouts until today.

Four women residents of Maysapang, Barangay Ususan, Taguig City were arrested after resisting the encroachment of armed goons of the R-II Builders in their community. The said company has long been planning to demolish the said community.

South Cotabato massacre.

Two hors de combat Red fighters were killed by the 5th SFB and PNP at Sitio Kibang, Barangay Ned, Lake Sebu on December 2, 4:30 a.m.

The victims were identified as Romeo Libron (Ka Melvin), 60 and Ka Sarge. The fascists also killed three civilians who visited them that day, including Ka Melvin's wife.

Killing. The police and 29th IB gunned down purok leader Ignacio Moraca Arevalo in Barangay Mati, Surigao City on November 25. Arevalo was a leader of the Nagkahiusang Gagmayng Minero.

The PNP-Sison also killed businessman Josefino "Lalo" Calang at around 12 a.m. on November 26. He was accused as a member of the people's militia.

Bombing. The AFP Northern Luzon Command repeatedly strafed and thrice shelled Barangay Lawak Langka, Mangatarem, Pangasinan on November 24, forcing residents to forgo work for several days.

The 29th IB also dropped seven bombs and strafed communities in Santiago, Agusan del Norte on November 25. AB

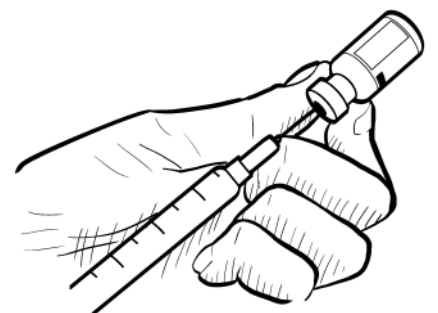
No efficient vaccination program

RODRIGO DUTERTE repeatedly announced that vaccination will be his regime's primary strategy in addressing the Covid-19 pandemic. Over and over, he boasts of his plan to vaccinate 75% to 80% of the total population in the Philippines. However, his regime has no efficient plan to procure, store and distribute vaccines. He admitted that the government still has no funds and that it will primarily rely on the private sector for the procurement of the required doses.

Since November, vaccine "czar" Gen. Carlito Galvez has been announcing plans to order from big pharmaceutical companies. He repeatedly promised that vaccines will arrive in the Philippines in the first or second quarter of 2021.

This promise is false because firstly, the trials for most of the vaccines are not yet done, and secondly, big companies will only earmark limited stocks for small counties such as the Philippines. As of now, Duterte has only gone as far as allowing the use of vaccines for emergency-use beginning January 2021.

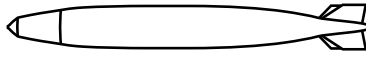
The regime is also touting about its to buy 50 million doses of vaccines from Sinovac (China) and 2.6 million doses from AstraZeneca (UK). The said companies are yet to receive permits to conduct clinical trials in the country.



—IN—SHORT

11 YEARS
since the
Maguindanao
Massacre wherein
58 journalists
were killed

on **November 23, 2009**.
Justice has not been served
until today. **Only eight**
out of the **48 suspects**
were **convicted by the court**.



\$18 M

worth of war
matériel given
by the US to the
AFP

in November. This includes
100 TOW-2A missiles, 12
Improved Target
Acquisition Systems
and **24 MK-82 bombs**.

P33 B

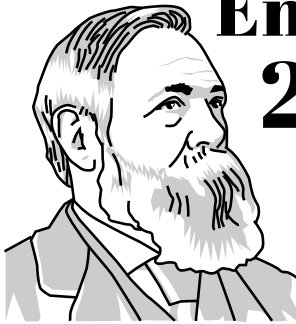
"parked
funds"

in the
Philippine International
Trading Corporation used
to **accumulate interest**
earnings that are
pocketed by officials and
generals of the AFP.

P66 B

overcharged
by **Meralco** to
consumers

since **2011** by **declaring**
higher energy sales
from **its own power plants**.



Engels
200

Friedrich
Engels 200th

birthday was
commemorated
last **November 28**

He was Karl Marx's partner in conducting
research and writing crucially important
studies of the communist movement.

P88 BILLION

PNP bonus and cash gift



vs.



P0

Hazard and
special pay
for doctors
and nurses

-54%

decline in
consumer confidence

or the number of Filipinos who said that
they will spend less in the coming months
due to wage, income and job insecurity.

20%

of workers
who lost
their jobs
during the pandemic

will not be able to find other jobs, according to World Bank.
Earlier in August, one out of four Filipinos (25%)
said that they are jobless.

Overcoming the pandemic in Cuba

First part of the two-part series on the Cuban state and people's response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Key to Cuba's response to the Covid-19 pandemic is its national health system which is free, universal, accessible to 100% of the population, based on primary health care and ran by quality community doctors and nurses. Cuba is one of the countries which has been able to control the pandemic early.

Cuba's national Covid-19 response plan was drafted and developed early. In January, there was already a national strategy in place tailored for all government agencies, and civic and people' organizations. It formed the Temporal National Group headed by the country's president, Miguel Diaz-Canel Bermudez. The group is tasked to to assess the national situation daily and come up with clear guidelines. In territories, defense councils were activated to implement plans in accordance to specific characteristics of their areas. The Technical National Group, headed by the Public Health minister, was put in charge of its daily implementation.

Infection prevention at the community level became the country's general response. Family doctors who were based in villages stood at the forefront of this program. Prevention, care for the infected and continuing disease surveillance is ensured at this level. This localized system is able to rapidly adjust to rising infection cases. It has the capacity to provide specialized or hospital-level care when necessary because of the spread of clinics and hospitals and high level of capability of doctors and nurses.

There are nine doctors for every thousand people in Cuba. It has one of the highest doctor-patient ratio, next only to Qatar and Oman. The country has a total of 485,000 health workers. (The Philippines' doctor-patient ratio, on the other hand is one for every 33,000.)

Cuba ensured that the virus will be controlled by actively tracing those who have been infected by

conducting a 100% door-to-door survey, and by giving special attention to vulnerable groups. Disease surveillance was strictly carried out by 10,000 community clinics, 449 municipality clinics, 150 hospitals and 12 research institutes. The state recruited 28,000 university students, especially medical students, to participate in door-to-door surveys. Through this system, the state was able to immediately control the spread of the disease in areas with relatively high infections, as those infected and their contacts were promptly isolated.

Cuba also had to impose restrictions which included closing its borders to tourists from April 2, and mandating the wearing of face masks and maintaining physical distancing. Cuba opened its airports and seaports in August.

Cuba strengthened its testing capacity to cover 1 out of every 5 citizens. The state gave free accommodation to 150,000 suspected cases and their contacts, 5% of whom were later confirmed positive. The costs for this program were high but the state persisted. Pres. Bermudez reiterated that it is the state's "nonnegotiable principle" to look after the people which it considers its "main treasure."

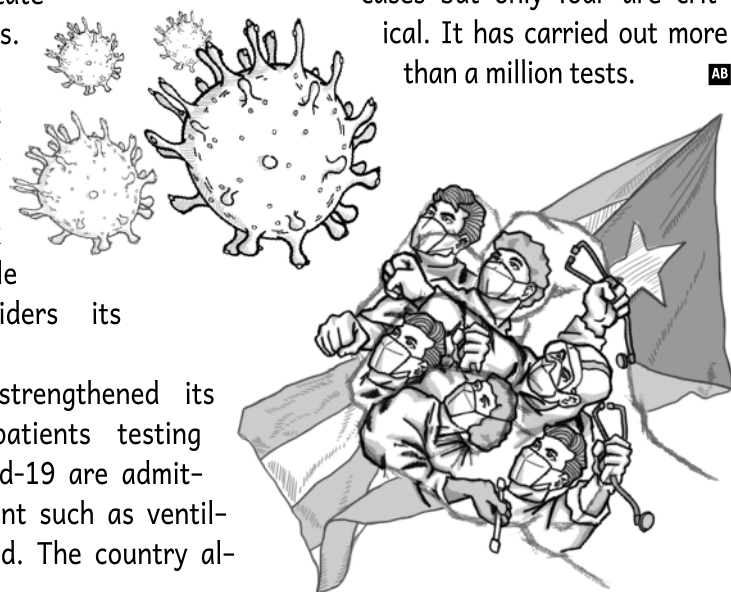
Cuba also strengthened its hospitals. All patients testing positive for Covid-19 are admitted and equipment such as ventilators are ensured. The country al-

located 20 hospitals, 5,000 beds and 447 intensive care beds for the infected.

A group of experts and scientists was organized to undertake scientific studies on clinical procedures and to develop protocols and researches on products and medicines against Covid-19. Cuba has an advance pharmaceutical and biotechnological sector and it has the capacity for research and manufacturing. All their researchers, testing and investigations are publicly available and can be read in medical publications. This is in contrast to competitive and secretive imperialist countries and monopoly pharmaceutical companies who also happen to engage in information theft.

In October, Cuba reopened its airports and seaports to tourists and all visitors. (These were opened in August but major airports, as well as the capital Havana, were closed down after the second wave of infections.) Schools were opened on September 1 to finish the semester. Except for Havana, the rest of the country has already returned to normal.

On December 2, Cuba was listed as 126th among the 185 countries affected by the pandemic. It registered more than 8,000 infections, with 7,600 recoveries and 136 deaths. There are almost 600 active cases but only four are critical. It has carried out more than a million tests. AB



250 million protest in India against neoliberalism

VARIOUS STATES IN India saw the biggest strike in the history of the world on November 26. Despite lockdown restrictions, more than 250 million residents led by 10 trade unions and peasant organizations participated in the general strike to oppose the neoliberal reforms implemented by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in connivance with US imperialists amid the pandemic.

Strikers blocked all railways and main transportation routes, and stopped the production activities in factories. The protest was held in conjunction with the commemoration of the Constitution Day in India.

Among those who protested are 12 million farmers who marched

from northern states in India to Delhi. The farmers brought with them 96,000 farm tractors. More than 10,000 women from the Punjab district also participated in the march.

The protesters demanded the junking of a law which dismantled the farmgate pricing of agricultural

products and the privatization of state-owned establishments. They also called for welfare programs for rural workers as well as the expansion of welfare policies to aid residents affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. These are part of the seven basic demands which were signed by the broad united front.

India is currently facing severe recession due to the pandemic. Latest data indicate that its gross domestic product (GDP) decreased by 24%, while its unemployment rate is at 27%. AB