

EDITORIAL

Vow to advance and strengthen the revolution by the shrine of heroes and martyrs

This week, we remember and extol all heroes and martyrs of the Philippine revolution in its more than five decades of perseverance. The Week to Remember and Extol the Heroes and Martyrs of the Filipino People (April 17-24) was declared by the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) as an annual commemoration.

On April 24, on the 50th anniversary of the NDFP, let us give the highest tribute to Benito Tiamzon and Wilma Austria, preeminent and most respected leaders of the Party, captured along with eight others, tortured and killed by the AFP soldiers on August 21, 2022. On the day, at the break of dawn, all NPA units shall execute a silent 21-gun salute to honor them and all the people's heroes. Revolutionary mass organizations will also conduct various types of meetings and assemblies, secrets and openings, to read tributes and memorials of our he-

roes.

Let us also give the highest recognition to Ka Jose Maria Sison (Amado Guerrero), founding chairman of the CPP, who dedicated nearly six decades of his life to the patriotic and democratic aspirations of the Filipino people. His revolutionary spirit will live on and serve an everlasting inspiration to the next generation of the Filipino revolutionaries.

On this day, let us also remember and honor other members of the Party Central Committee. The memory of Jorge Madlos (Ka Oris), Julius

Giron (Ka Nars), Menardo Vilanueva (Ka Bok), Antonio Cabanatan (Ka Manlimbasog) and other revolutionaries and communists who dedicated their entire lives to the struggle of the Filipino people for genuine freedom and democracy. Let us also remember all Party cadres, Red NPA fighters, revolutionaries, activists and ordinary people who sacrificed everything for the sake of the people. They all deserve to receive medals and recognition.

The shrine of the Filipino people's martyrs is invincible. Their manifest resoluteness to fight imperialism, feudalism and bureaucrat capitalism alongside the Filipino masses is indisputable. We give them the highest respect and salutation!

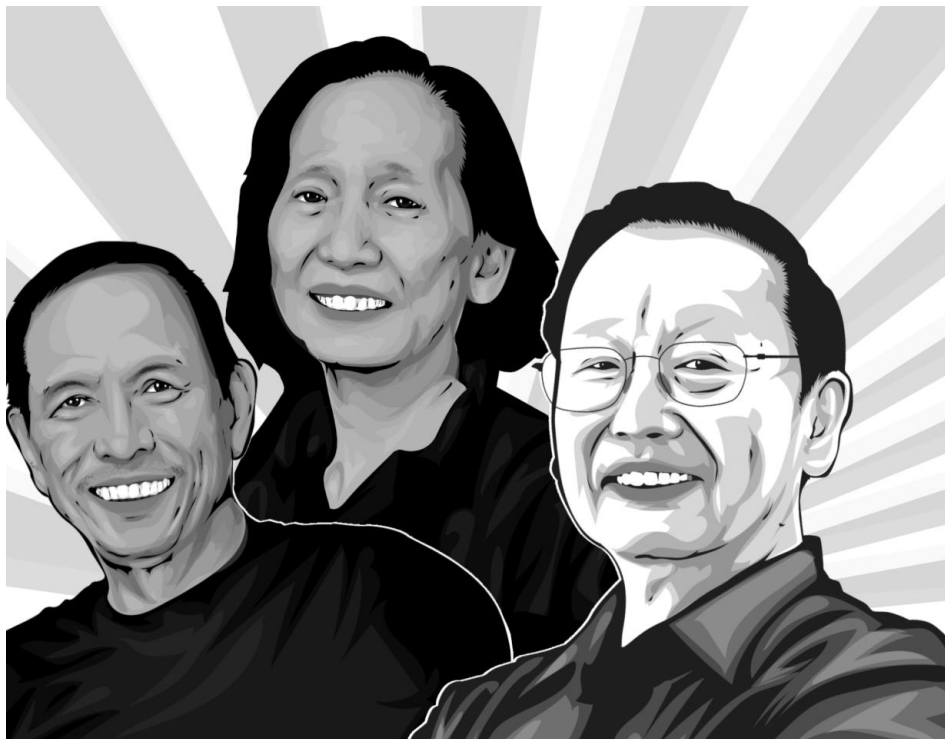


Let us also salute all the revolutionary masses, activists of mass organizations, Red fighters, organizers and cadres of the Party who continue to persevere along the revolutionary path despite all difficulties and sacrifices especially in the face of the worsening campaign of US-instigated fascist terrorism. Amid fascist darkness, they are beacons who guide the people's resistance.

Beyond remembering and honoring our martyrs and heroes, let us declare before their shrine our wholehearted resolve to take on their path and shoulder the heavy

tasks in order to further advance the revolutionary struggle to end all forms of oppression and exploitation of the people.

The Filipino people's suffering is further worsening under the US-Marcos regime. The regime imposes anti-people policies and program in favor of foreign capitalists. To attract foreign capitalists, wages of workers and rank-and-file employees are kept grossly low relative to their families' needs. People are dispossessed of their land, mountains, rivers and oceans which serve as their source of livelihood.



Marcos' subservience to his US imperialist masters is brazen in allowing its plan to build four or more additional military bases, especially in northern Luzon, in accordance with US war provocations through inciting Taiwan's separation from China. Marcos is allowing the US to use and pull the Philippines into a war that will certainly be inimical to the Filipino people's lives and freedom.

The sacrifice of our heroes have borne fruit in the form of revolutionary power attained and established throughout the country. This power comes from the people. It is deep-going and widespread and continues to expand. It will never be overcome even in the face of the enemy's relentless military campaigns of repression. This power is the future of the Filipino people.



Marcos' anti-people and anti-democratic rule, and the worsening crisis of the ruling semicolonial and semifeudal system are manifestations of the continuing necessity to wage revolutionary struggle for national democracy. It has already advanced a long way. The road remains long and tortuous, but needs to be taken if one aims to create the opportunity for Filipinos to enjoy a new life.

The Party calls on the Filipino people to remain dauntless amid the struggle against the enemy's reign of terror, and to fight to attain justice for all victims of fascist terrorism.

Continue to strengthen the organized ranks of the people and advance the militant struggles to advance the patriotic and democratic demands of the people. Unite the Filipino people to isolate and fight the US-Marcos regime.

The entire party, from the Central Committee down to all its branches, as well as units of the New People's Army, and all revolutionary mass organizations, are determined to strengthen their links with the broad masses of the people and continue to lead their struggles, and press on the path of revolutionary resistance.

AB

| | |
|---|--|
|  <p>Vol LIV No. 8 April 21, 2023</p> <p>Ang Bayan is published in Pilipino, Bisaya, Iloko, Hiligaynon, Waray, English and Spanish. 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> | <h2 style="text-align: center;">Contents</h2> <p>Editorial: Vow to advance and strengthen the revolution by the shrine of heroes and martyrs 1 Tribute for Comrades Benito and Wilma Tiamzon 3 NDFP condemns "terrorist" branding of consultant 3 Preparing the youth for full-time revolutionary work 4 NPA mounts armed actions in 4 provinces 5 AFP "modernization" for imperialist war provocation 6 Land struggles rage in Tarlac and Negros 7 EDCA and AFP "modernization" 7 US war games detrimental and perilous to Filipinos 8 Protests 8 In short 9 Rise in the number of informal work 10</p> |
| <p>Ang Bayan is published fortnightly by the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Philippines</p> | |
|  ang.bayan@cpp.ph |  @angbayan1969 |

Highest tribute for Comrades Benito Tiamzon and Wilma Austria

To give the firmest tribute to party leaders Benito Tiamzon and Wilma Austria-Tiamzon, the National Operational Command of the New People's Army and the CPP Central Committee directed all NPA units to stand in formation on the break of dawn of April 24 and silently execute a 21-gun salute, on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines.

The tribute of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee to comrades Benito Tiamzon and Wilma Austria-Tiamzon (Ka Laan and Ka Bagong-tao), released in a special issue of Ang Bayan on April 20, will be read and discussed in all gatherings.

The Communist Party's Political Bureau disclosed last April 20 the brutal killing of comrades

Benito and Wilma by the US-supported Armed Forces of the Philippines. Ka Benito has long served as chairman of the Central Committee's Executive Committee, while Ka Wilma was the party's secretary general.

The couple, along with eight others, were mercilessly and cowardly killed by mercenary troops under the Joint Task Force Storm and



Task Force Trident on August 21, 2022. They were arrested in Samar while traveling on two vans between 12 noon and 1pm.

They were brutally tortured before murdered. The next day, their lifeless bodies were dumped on a motorboat and towed midsea between Catbalogan City and Tarangan Island. The boat was then made to explode to create the appearance of a sea armed encounter and cover up the heinous crime. AB

NDFP condemns "terrorist" branding of consultant

The National Democratic Front of the Philippines condemned the terrorist branding of one of its peace negotiation consultants. This was after police paraded Eric Casilao before the media to subject him to public humiliation and scorn. Casilao was arrested while travelling from Malaysia to Thailand on April 1. He was deported to the Philippines on April 17.

Casilao should not have been called a "terrorist," according to Juliet de Lima, interim chair of the NDFP's negotiating panel. He has the right to be presumed innocent as allegations against him have not been proven. He has the right to have a lawyer and to be heard in court. Casilao is part of the Reciprocal Working Committee on the Comprehensive Agreement on Socio Economic Reforms for Southern Mindanao.

Meanwhile, fascist attacks continue in the countryside.

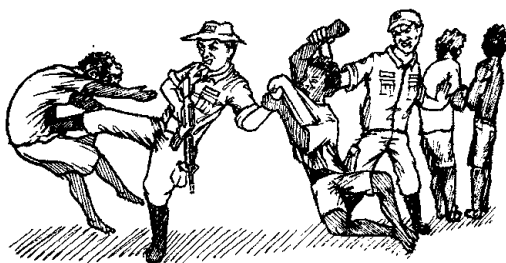
In Negros Occidental, the 62nd IB killed farmer Jose Albores Jr in Sitio Upper Tiyos, Barangay Quintin Remo, Moses Padilla, Negros Occidental on April 18. He was killed after having served as witness to military harassment against his neighbor.

In Misamis Oriental, the 58th

IB brutally killed farmers Ricardo Hilogon in Sitio Tapol, Barangay Banglay, Lagonglong on April 3. Hilogon was a former NPA member and had long ended his involvement.

Arrest and harassment. The 62nd IB arrested Jerry Montefalcon, 49, and Maricel Alper at their home in Sitio Natuli, Barangay Budlasan, Canlaon City, Negros Oriental on April 15.

In Palawan, six residents of Brooke's Point who participated in the people's barricade against operations of the Ipilan Mining Corporation were illegally arrested by



police on April 14.

State forces illegally entered Aileen G. Esiller's home on April 6 in Sitio Kaloko, Barangay Sta. Barbara, Bulusan. Her domestic animals and possessions were taken.

Attack against communities. At least six communities in the towns of Isabela and Binalbagan, Negros Occidental are being combed by the forces of the 94th IB and 62nd IB since April 10. Due to the infestation of soldiers and disruption due to checkpoints, officials of Barangay Payao were forced to suspend classes on April 12. The soldiers also strafed the house of the But-ay family in Sitio Pallacon in the said village on April 11.

The military scouring operations in Moses Padilla and Himamaylan City in Negros Occidental and Guihulngan City in Negros Oriental continue to date.

In Agusan del Sur, AFP helicopters rained bullets in Sitio San Miguel, Barangay Pinagalaan, Bayugan City on April 16. Soldiers issued false reports of an encounter with the NPA. AB

At crossroads: Preparing the youth for full-time revolutionary work

Andres Bonifacio's revolutionary blood flows through the veins of young people. Not far from Tondo where Bonifacio was born lies the headquarters of young revolutionaries who lived by the vow, "I offer even my life."

Every day, members of the Kabataang Makabayan arouse, organize and mobilize their fellow youth in the universities to visit factories, poor communities and farms to see the real situation of the people. They encourage young people to take part in the revolutionary struggle, support the armed struggle and join the New People's Army.

To become fulltime revolutionaries is not an easy decision as it entails great sacrifices in lifestyle and devoting one's time entirely to the tortuous path of resistance.

KM chapters play a big role in nurturing more full-time revolutionaries. In the past, experience have shown the importance of all-rounded consolidation to help members develop the resolve to work full-time in the cities or country-

side. Part of this is a sustained education program, a program for immersing with the basic masses, building strong links with guerrilla fronts, and conducting trainings to prepare the youth on the difficult path of the armed struggle.

Although university education stopped during the pandemic, young people did not stop studying society. The completion of the basic and special mass courses about Philippine society and revolution, the writings of Jose Maria Sison, and discussions on Marxism, Leninism, and Maoism was key to building and strengthening the revolutionary resolve of its members. Secret study circles were formed to gather KM members in the universities and conduct collective study discussions. The theories learned from

these discussions would become weapons for members and collectives to better comprehend the contradictions of society and even individuals.

In addition to theoretical discussions, an important component of the program of KM chapters is putting theory into practice by taking part in the people's struggle. The Party works closely with KM chapters to increase the number of young people who work among the basic masses. As the youth regularly go to communities, they realize their role in society - as propagandists and organizers among basic masses.

Young people, particularly students, use their skills as intellectuals to explain to the common people their exploitation, and the path of national democratic struggle.

KM chapters are working to help strengthen the workers' movement and the formation of red workers' brigades within factories and neighboring communities. In the past, many young people have decided to work full time after immersing with the toiling people. As one full-time activist said, "Being with the masses makes the difference because you experience their tragic reality."

Chapters of KM are also conducting a vigorous campaign to go to the countryside and join the NPA. It has developed programs that tighten the links of KM and Party members among the youth to the guerrilla fronts in the countryside. This has resulted in greater material support, deployment of forces to fronts, and closer cooperation with the political campaigns of the provinces and regions. It also includes a program to prepare the youth physically for difficult life in the mountains.

Continue on page 5



NPA mounts armed actions in 4 provinces

Units of the New People's Army (NPA) in four provinces mounted a series of tactical offensives as part of efforts to frustrate the military operations being carried out by the US-Marcos terrorist regime.

In Masbate, Red fighters seized a rifle from military agents in Sitio Pondol at the border of barangays San Carlos and Matagbac in Milagros on April 14. The agents were engaged in aggressive actions against people of the second district of province. One of the agents was killed while two others were injured.

According to reports by Red fighters, the agents fought back as they were being disarmed, and even used their civilian companions as shield. As a result, the fighters

moved quickly to help civilians, especially a child, to remove them from the dangerous situation.

In Negros Oriental, three short weapons were confiscated by the NPA from Jorge Javier, an intelligence agent of the 62nd IB, in a partisan operation last April 16 in Sitio Guibawan, Barangay Bucalan, Canlaon City, Negros Oriental. Javier was killed in the said operation.

In Camarines Sur, a soldier was killed in the NPA's sniping operation



against the detachment 81st IB in Barangay Tible, Lupi, Camarines Sur. The operation was carried out from 200 meters on March 30 at ten o'clock in the morning.

In Camarines Norte, the NPA fired at the detachment of the 9th IB in Sitio Cupido, Barangay Malaya, Labo on April 1. A soldier was killed in the operation. **AB**

From page 4

Members are encouraged to regularly exercise, eat right, and undergo special military training. Unlike the state's mandatory ROTC, training under the people's army is more meaningful and engaging as it is principled and serves the interest of the masses. The youth firmly embrace and take part in it.

Young people go through many contradictions in the process of forming the conscious decision to work full-time. There are personal contradictions, those in their studies, finances, and most of all, in the family. Many have second thoughts of going full-time because of family considerations. Many parents, especially at the outset, disagree with their children's decision to become activists or revolutionaries. The state exploits this by conducting anti-communist propaganda that targets them. However, more often than not, this is overcome through tireless explanation wherein young

people earn their parent's support for their decision to take the revolutionary path.

Other young people, at a young age, already shoulder the burden of working for their families. Some try to complete their studies to get a better job, while others who could no longer wait, choose to leave school to work for low wages.

But no matter how difficult, they still choose to confront these contradictions as it is clear to them that the only hope of changing soci-



ety lies in the triumph of the people's democratic revolution. Through consolidation and constantly confronting these contradictions collectively, it becomes possible for them to decide to work full-time. They apply the theories they learned, such as dialectical materialism, to deconstruct contradictions and find solutions. These are also the key to their self-remoulding and repudiation of individualism inherent among the young pettybourgeois that pulls them back from serving the masses. Theory and practice strengthens their resolve to remould themselves and overcome these tendencies, and move forward with every task.

As the revolutionary movement continues to move forward, more young people will contribute their knowledge, talent and strength for the people. The inspiration they draw from Bonifacio and all the heroes of the Filipino people will strengthen their wholehearted decision to devote their entire life to advancing the revolution. **AB**

AFP “modernization” for imperialist war provocation

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) has no independence and relies on foreign support. In times of war, it does not have the capability to defend the Filipino people’s freedom and livelihood. Its orientation, operation and even its weapons are closely tied to US strategies and interests in Asia.

From the onset, the AFP has been supplied with obsolete and refurbished equipment disposed by the US army. These go through programs such as the Excess Defense Article (EDA) and foreign military financing (FMF). The funds and weapons also flow through its Overseas Contingency Operations (once called “war against terror”) which maintains a permanent base in Mindanao (then the Joint Special Operations Task Force-Philippines, and since 2017, the Operation Pacific Eagle-Philippines).

Over the past decade, the US boosted its program to arm the AFP in line with its pivot to Asia. According to a 2020 public report by a US defense agency, it dumped up to \$11 million (₱550 million) worth of old weapons, and other equipment in the Philippines in 2011-2019. This forms part of the nearly \$442 million (₱22.1 billion) worth of “articles” or equipment

authorized by the US defense agency to be transferred to the Philippines during the period.

These include two C-130s, trucks and other military vehicles, small marine vessels, clothing, tanks, dental/medical equipment, water purifiers and others. During this period, the US disposed a decommissioned warship for the Philippines to navigate in the South China Sea.

The piling of the weapons was done in the midst of then president Rodrigo Duterte show of “separating” from the US. In 2019-2021, the US authorized the export of military equipment worth nearly \$171.3 million (₱8.565 billion.) In 2019 only, before Duterte “suspended” the Visiting Forces Agreement, the US provided military equipment worth \$ 24 million (₱1.2 billion) through the EDA. These included short and long guns, vehicles, missiles, rockets, torpedoes, bombs and mines,

and machines.

The US embassy in the Philippines boasts that the US provided \$1.14 billion (₱57 billion) military assistance to the Philippines from 2015 to 2022. More than 41% (₱23.9 billion) was in the form of FMF. Large equipment sold by the US to the AFP include two Cessna planes, ScanEagles drones, sniping weapons and anti-bomb equipment and guns, bullets and bombs. These are used by the AFP in its counterinsurgency war against the people in the countryside.

The AFP’s “modernization” was boosted in 2018 when the reactionary state allocated \$5.6 billion (₱300 billion) for the next five years. The funds were used by AFP generals to buy more US-made weapons and equipment. They also set up the purchase of “cheaper” military equipment from US subsidiaries or partner military companies in South Korea (FA-50 airplane), Israel (Hermes UAV, ATMOS 2000), Poland (Black Hawk helicopters) and so on. These large purchases are accompanied with repair and parts contracts that are equivalent or greater than the purchase contracts. These contracts serve as milking cows for the military generals.

In the end, all of the weapons purchased and received by the Philippines are authorized by the US. The AFP rejected the “weak” rifles “given” by China. Defense officials also withdrew from the contract to buy Russian helicopters claiming these did not “fit” the AFP’s current systems and operations. In reality, the AFP does not make a single move that is not in line with the orders or direction from the US. AB



Land struggles rage in Tarlac and Negros

Hundreds of residents in Negros and Tarlac are struggling for their rights to land and welfare. In Tarlac, members of the Nagkakaisang Mamamayan ng Santa Lucia para sa Lupa, Kabuhayan at Paninirahan staged a protest before the Capas town hall on April 13. They are opposing land grabbing and destruction of their farms by the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

The AFP is using the Bases Conversion Law to seize productive farms and turn these into a part of the Camp O'Donnell firing range. Initially, only up to 10 hectares were set to be included in the expansion plans of the firing range, but within a week, the soldiers had cleared 20 hectares. Residents confronted hundreds of soldiers sent by the Installation Management Battalion last April 12. They fear being evicted even from their homes.

Residents have previously complained about the proximity of the firing range to their farms. In the past, stray bullets from the firing range have killed a goat and a carabao.

The farmers demanded that the Capas local government: Stop land

grabbing and destruction of crops, give compensation for damaged crops and property and investigate the soldiers for violating the rights of residents.

In Negros Oriental, hundreds of residents of Barangay San Francisco, Santa Catalina, together with the town mayor, indigenous Bukidnon tribes, and progressive organizations, protested on April



12 against the mining company operating in Sitio Tarug in the said village.

They demanded that the Midan Corporation stop mining explorations for gold deposits covering 1,000 hectares of land in the said sitio. According to them, the Mayor Peve Obaniana-Ligan did not permit its operations, and is, in fact, against it.

Indigenous groups also denounced the project which did not have their consent. According to the Santa Catalina Bukidnon Tribe Association, the forest that will be covered by the mine is part of their ancestral land. Their tribe have long lived in this forest since their first recognized leader named Tolong. According to law, the indigenous community must first provide their free, prior, and informed consent.

The barangay councils of the mining-affected villages also passed a resolution against its operations. AB

EDCA and AFP “modernization”

The US and the Marcos regime has boasted that the planned US construction of military bases in different parts of the country form part of the AFP’s “modernization” program.

In the just concluded 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue between the US and Philippines defense and foreign officials last April 11, the US bragged that up to ₱10 billion funds will be poured into the Philippines for the construction of at least nine military bases.

From this, \$100 million (₱5 billion) will be allocated to “accelerate” the repair of such locations in accordance with US requirements and needs. The additional ₱5 billion will be in the form of US-made multirole fighter aircraft and Chinook helicopters.

At the meeting, the US brazenly

subjugated the AFP modernization program by announcing its Security Sector Assistance Roadmap. This “roadmap” dictates what weapons and military equipment will be dumped in the Philippines for the next five to 10 years.

The roadmap conforms to the US plan to set out a weapons network in the so-called “First Island Chain” to encircle China and contain its influence in the region. Part of this plan is the construction of facilities for rockets, missiles and artillery systems to be used in the event of China’s “invasion” of Taiwan.

This offensive measure exposes US doublespeak in pretending to uphold the One China Principle in which Taiwan is recognized as part of China, while at the same time stoking Taiwan’s “independence”. In effect, the US is drawing the Philippines towards the issue of sovereignty between Taiwan and China, contrary to the policy of non-interference of the Philippines and Southeast Asian countries.

Meanwhile, Cagayan residents and local officials strongly oppose the opening of two “EDCA locations” in the province. On April 17, up to 5,000 residents took part in a “prayer rally for peace” in Rizal Park in Tuguegarao City led by the Prayer for Peace Cagayan Movement. AB

US war games are detrimental and perilous to Filipinos

National-democratic organizations staged coordinated protest actions in and outside the country on the first days of the 38th US-PH Balikatan Exercises on April 11. They criticized the US for using the Philippines to provoke war against its imperialist rival China.

In Metro Manila, protesters led by the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan staged a picket at Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City on April 11. A similar protest in New York was mounted on the same day.

Members of the League of Filipino Students carried out a lightning rally at dawn in front of the US Embassy in Manila. Two rallyists were arrested and charged with public disturbance. Four paralegals who assisted the students were also arrested by the police but were released later. In support, various youth groups protested before the Philippine General Hospital and Far Eastern University. The youth also took action at the University of the Philippines-Visayas.

According to the protesters, there is no truth to claims of the Marcos regime, the AFP and the US

that these war games will benefit and help Filipinos. As in the past, the purpose of the Balikatan is to prepare for war and project US imperialist power. It tramples on the country's sovereignty and puts the lives and livelihoods of Filipinos in danger.

In Nueva Ecija, residents condemned American and Filipino troops for the live-fire exercises of cannons and bombardments in Fort Magsaysay. Most of the bombings were carried out at night, at 11 o'clock, which shocked and disturbed the barriofolks, especially sleeping children. The live-fire exercises are part of the training where soldiers use real ammunition and bombs. In addition to causing trauma to civilians, it also drives away stray wildlife in adjacent forests and leaves toxic material



that are harmful to the environment.

Gabriela reported that numerous farmers avoid going out of their communities for fear of being hit during the training. This affects their livelihood. Small fishermen likewise suffer as they are forbidden to fish in at least five towns in Zambales to give way to the Balikatan. The ban was imposed during the peak of the fishing season. The Pamalakaya condemned the Balikatan spokesperson's statement that the ban was a "minor inconvenience" in exchange for "national security." The Pamalakaya insisted that US troops leave the area of Filipino fishermen in peace.

The Balikatan will last for 18 days. It involves 12,000 American troops, 5,400 Filipino troops and 111 Australian troops. In addition to live-fire exercises at Fort Magsaysay, participants will also sink a ship in the Zambales waters, 185 kilometers from the Panatag Shoal, the traditional fishing ground of Chinese and Filipinos. The US will use such weapons as the HIMARS (High-Mobility Artillery Rocket System) and rockets and bombs to be launched by US and Philippine war aircraft. The US will also "train" Filipino soldiers to use the Patriot Missile, Javelin anti-tank weapons and other weapons now being used in the US proxy war against Russia in Ukraine.

Balikatan was first conducted in 2002 under the veil of "anti-terrorism war."

AB

Lightning-rally for the NDFP. Hundreds of members of various groups under the National Democratic Front of the Philippines staged a lightning rally on April 19 as part of commemoration activities for the 50th anniversary of the alliance. A short program was held in Cubao, Quezon City. The Party's statement was read calling for a week honoring all the martyrs of the Philippine revolution over the past five decades.

Stop the Simreg Law. Journalists and activists staged a protest on April 17 as they filed a petition to stop the implementation of the SIM Card Registration Law. According to the petition, the law violates Filipinos' privacy rights and eliminates the required warrant for searches as it obliges SIM card users to provide personal information. Currently, almost 60% of cellphone users are unregistered and face the threat of being dispossessed of their right to communication.

PUP protests. Students of the Polytechnic University of the Philippines-Manila staged a protest on April 17 to push the University's administration to resolve the lack of electricity in its Mabini campus. The administration used the lack of electricity to suspend limited face-to-face classes.



2.3%

average amount of local palay acquired by the **National Food Authority (NFA)** from 2018 up to 2022.

The NFA failed to meet even its already low acquisition target.

87%

of teachers said that school children cannot concentrate in class because of the hot weather during the summer season.



They demand to shift back the school calendar wherein the break is during Abril to May.

Source: ACT Teachers Party

270 YEARS

time needed before a Filipino worker earns **\$1 million or ₱55 million.**



Meanwhile, a Swiss worker only needs **14 years and 2 months** to earn the same amount.

54%

of protesting nurses in the UK rejected the state's offer for a 5% wage increase.



They demand a wage increase that can keep up with the inflation which has risen to 10% last March.

ONLY 6%

Filipino families are served by the pretentious **Kadiwa store** of Marcos Jr where he boasts of selling a ₱25 per kilo rice.



110

individuals, including children, where killed in **Myanmar's Sagaing region** after the military junta rained bombs and bullets in Kanbalu town on April 11.

Source: The Irrawaddy

BORN ON APRIL



Jorge Madlos (Ka Oris)

late national spokesperson of the NPA. Born on **April 22, 1947.**



Gregorio Rosal (Ka Roger)

late national spokesperson of the CPP. Born on **April 19, 1947.**

Jobs crisis: Rise in the number of informal work

Contrary to claims of the Marcos regime and its economists, the Philippine economy is not moving forward since it was reopened last year. Concurrent with the decline in employment rate, the number of workers with full-time jobs dropped. This shows more and more people are being pushed into the so-called informal work sector.

This sector consists of the self-employed, those who work on small farms or businesses, assistants, and unpaid family workers. Workers in this sector receive no or very low wages, have no job security and no benefits. They are not covered by labor laws and are denied the right to form associations and unions.

They are voiceless in the enterprises or subsectors they work in. They have no workplace protection making them vulnerable to inhuman work conditions, abuse and excessive exploitation and oppression. It is not surprising that many children and slave workers are found in this sector. In the definition of the International Labor Organization, these jobs are far from being formal or decent.

In January, an estimated 20

million or 42.2% of the total number of Filipino workers belong to this sector. This is much larger than the 16.8 million in January 2020. If irregular workers in private establishments are included, the number can reach 34.5 million or 73% of the total employees in the country. This means that seven out of 10 Filipino workers do not have a decent job.

These workers enter the informal economy not by preference but because they have no choice if they want to get paid or earn. A few of them earn more compared to regular workers, such as the professionals and college graduates. However, the greater majority of them are mired in poverty, live in dense communities, have no access to decent social services, and surplus capital, and are often targets of abuse by au-

thorities.

A large number of informal jobs are deeply dependent on clients, customers or families. In January, the number of self-employed workers fell by 746,000. The number of unpaid family workers or unpaid family jobs also fell by 433,000. In the case of the latter, workers often rely entirely on the employer-family for their food and housing.

The growth of the informal sector increases while the economy's capacity to create decent or regular jobs contracts. In January, up to 1.7 million jobs were lost due foremost to the reduction of workers in enterprises and businesses after the Christmas season. At the same time, the number of unemployed rose by 153,000, and the underemployed by 458,000.

In addition, the number of people in the labor force dropped from 51.2 million to 49.7 million (1.5 million decrease). As explained by the Ibon Foundation, the decline in the number of workers reflects the growing number of workers who have already lost hope of finding a job but are not categorized as unemployed.

The largest number of unemployed are from the agricultural sector (1.2 million) generally in seasonal work. Work in wholesale and retail trade went down by 375,000 to 10.6 million; in construction, the number of jobs went down by 288,000 to four million.

In addition, graduates of the K-12 program who are rejected for falling short of company requirements, augment the total number of unemployed.

According to the Commission on Human Rights (CHR), their studies show that among the reasons cited are the inadequacy of fresh graduates in "soft skills" or abilities in interpersonal relations, communications and emotions.

