

EDITORIAL

Strengthen the NDFP and fight US imperialist war

Let us wholeheartedly commemorate the 53rd anniversary of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) on April 24. On this occasion, let us further strengthen the unity and determination of the NDFP and Filipino people to advance the revolutionary struggle to liberate the country from the clutches of US imperialism and the local ruling classes.

Let us celebrate the victories of the NDFP as the most consolidated alliance of progressive and patriotic forces advancing the people's democratic revolution. Over more than five decades, the NDF has united various democratic sectors around its 12-point program for advancing the national democratic revolution.

Even as we look back at our history of relentless struggle, the

NDFP must also prepare to take on even heavier tasks in the future, especially amid the growing threat of imperialist wars to the country's independence, safety, and livelihood, brought about by the intensifying wars and aggression by US imperialism, as it seeks to appropriate or seize vital resources across the world.

The imperialist US successively attacked Venezuela and Iran, coun-

tries with the largest and third largest oil reserves. Using overwhelming military force, the US trampled on all norms of international law. The US also openly threatens Mexico, Colombia, Cuba, Panama, Greenland, and even part of Ukraine's territory.

The US is intensifying its warfare in order to preserve its global dominance amid the strategic decline of its economy and global empire, and the rise of various centers of trade and financial systems that do not use the dollar, and of military alliances and cooperation outside its control. The US uses and brandishes its military force to impose hegemony in different parts of the world, and to contain the expansion of the power of its imperialist rivals, especially China.

The US is further tightening its control over the Philippines. American capitalists are scrambling to extract and monopolize the country's remaining mineral wealth, and vast tracts of land to build their plantations and "renewable energy" or tourism projects. Marcos recently secretly signed an agreement with the US, under the so-called Luzon Economic Corridor, that will surrender 1,620 hectares to the full control of American capitalists, for plunder and seizure.

The US continues to expand its military presence in the Philippines. More and more American



troops, missiles, and war matériel are being stationed in military bases, both in EDCA sites and in secret military facilities in multiple parts of the country. Every year, it carries out ever larger military exercises and war games, such as the Balikatan exercises that began this month with at least 10,000 American troops.

The US exploits the Philippines, as well as South Korea and Japan, to strengthen the presence of its military forces in the seas around China. In the South China Sea, it carries out “transparency operations” using the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and the Philippine Coast Guard to challenge and provoke China. The US also plans to build a large oil storage facility in the Davao Gulf to service its warships. It also plans to build a factory to produce military equipment, including ammunition and drones, in Subic and Aurora. All these allow the US to use the Philippines for military aggression, just as its military bases in the Gulf states were used to launch the armed as-

sault on Iran.

The hands of all American soldiers are stained with the blood of thousands of Iranians and Palestinians killed in US-Israeli bombing, of millions killed in aggressive wars over the past century, including one million Filipinos killed by the US in its war of occupation of the Philippines. Allowing the country to be used foreign invaders to rest, to stockpile their weapons, and to launch more aggressive wars is a great insult to the Filipino people. The US dragging of the Philippines into its rivalry with China runs counter to the Filipino people’s desire to peacefully coexist with neighboring countries. This

brazenly tramples on Philippine sovereignty and threatens its security.

Amid this situation, the NDFP faces a major challenge to unite and arouse the Filipino people to stand up against the growing threat of US warfare and its use of the Philippines as launchpad for wars of aggression. “People’s war against imperialist war” is the call to forge the path of armed revolution to free the country from the claws of imperialist predators and oppressors.

The NDFP is well-positioned to take on these tasks, especially with its strengthening and renewed vigor in recent years. Revolutionary organizations have continued to expand and consolidate since the Party declared the rectification movement in 2023. The ranks of KM, PKM, Armas, and other revolutionary organizations are multiplying. Some have held their national congresses and council meetings, while continuing to expand and consolidate.

The NDFP held conferences and meetings to unite its allied organizations on burning national issues, and to exchange experiences and lessons in organizing and mobilizing the masses. Activities that rouse the broad masses, such as lightning rallies, and the use of various forms of propaganda, here and abroad, continue to increase. Support for the people’s army is expanding as more and more people seek to go to the countryside to join the armed struggle.

Let us steel our resolve to strengthen and expand the NDFP on the occasion of its 53rd anniversary. Let us further raise the NDFP’s contribution and participation in strengthening the protracted people’s war, a war advanced by the entire people, to achieve national and social liberation.



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AB

Wherever one falls, others rise

As tribute to the lives offered by the heroes and martyrs of the Filipino people, the weapons and tasks left behind are now firmly in the hands of new cadres, fighters, activists, and masses who advance the cause for national liberation and democracy.

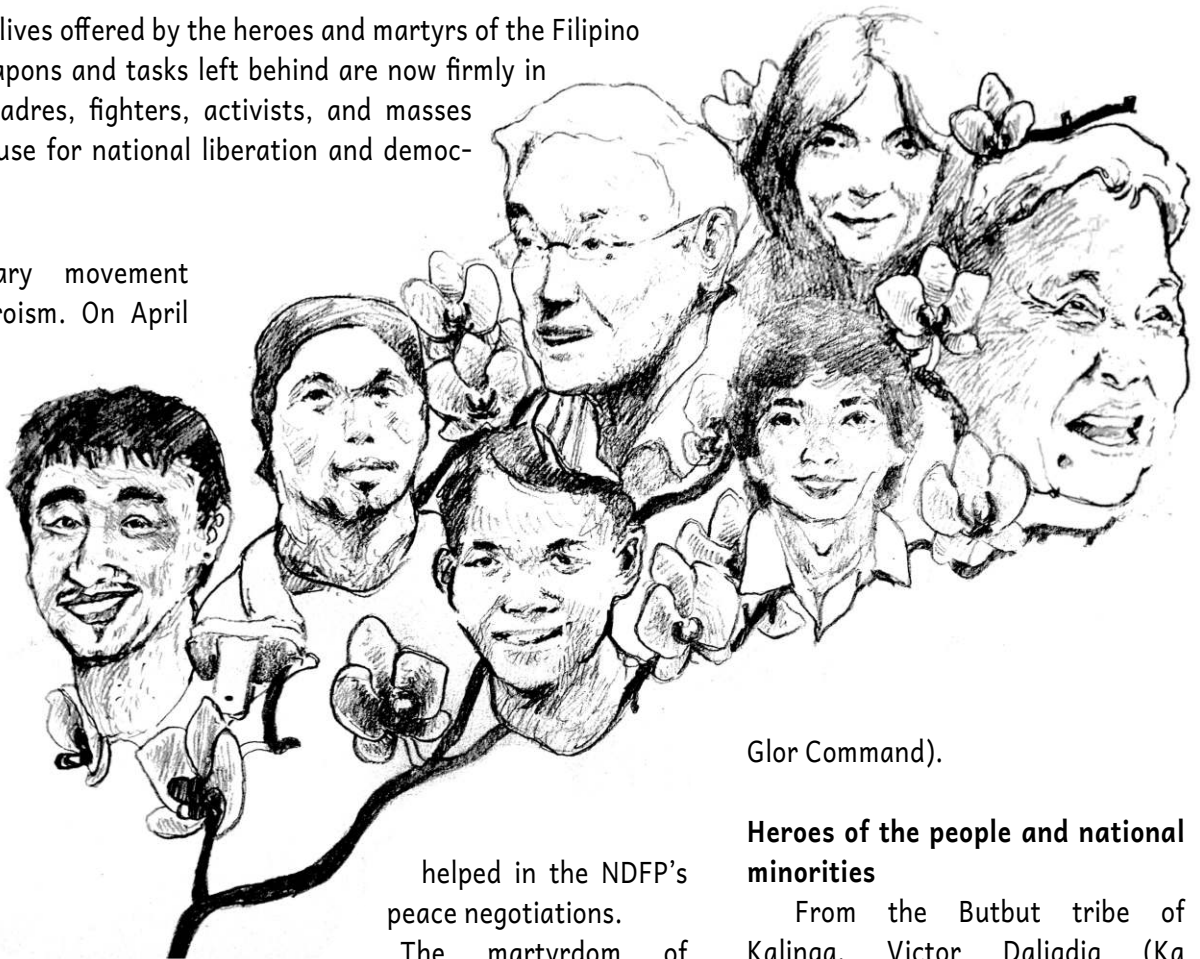
The revolutionary movement recognizes their heroism. On April 17-24, the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) observes the Week of Remembrance and Tribute to the Heroes and Martyrs of the Filipino People.

Over the past year, scores of Party cadres and New People's Army (NPA) Red fighters and commanders have fallen in battle against the fascist-terrorist Marcos regime. Some comrades also died of illness or in prison. They faithfully served the people until their final breath.

Exemplary leaders and commanders

Comrade Luis Jalandoni (Ka Louie) died at the age of 90 on June 7, 2025 in Utrecht, the Netherlands. His contributions to strengthening the Party and the NDFP and advancing the revolutionary armed struggle will never be forgotten. As former NDFP chief negotiator and representative, he was recognized as an unwavering champion of peace, internationalism, and revolution.

Patricia Corazon Casambre (Ka Alice), 79, is also remembered for her contributions. For many years, she gave valuable contributions and led in various fields of struggle. She worked in organizing, education, translation, and the publication of works under *Aklat ng Bayan*, and



helped in the NDFP's peace negotiations.

The martyrdom of Roberto Moises Cabales (Ka William) of Panay and Reynalde Erecre (Ka Amek) of Negros Island left a huge gap in the Visayas. Both were leading Party leaders and cadres and commanders of the NPA in their regions.

Urban poor, workers, Lumad, Moro, and peasant masses in Mindanao countrysides will never forget Anthony Narvasa (Ka Magaw). He was an organizer and Red fighter in Northern, Southern, and Far South Mindanao, where he served as a leading Party committee cadre.

The name Roberto delos Santos (Kasamang Bogs/Ino) is etched in the hearts of Bicol peasants and fisherfolk as their leader and fighter. He long served the masses in Sorsogon and more recently in Camarines Norte.

Red commander Jordan Mocon (Kasamang Sy) fell as a martyr in Southern Tagalog. Mocon was NPA-Rizal (Narciso Antazo Aramil Command) commander and also an NPA member in Southern Tagalog (Melito

Glor Command).

Heroes of the people and national minorities

From the Butbut tribe of Kalinga, Victor Daligdig (Ka Changli) dedicated nearly 20 years of his life to serving fellow Igorots and the Cordillera masses as an NPA-Kalinga (Lejo Cawilan Command) Red fighter. He was before this a member and organizer of *Kabataang Makabayan-Demokratiko nga Alyansa ti Agtutubo iti Kordilyera* under the Cordillera People's Democratic Front.

Oma Dag-od (Ka Nixao) was an excellent leader of the indigenous Mangyan-Buhid and an NPA commander in Mindoro (Lucio de Guzman Command). It was in the movement where he learned to write, tell stories, and read with other Buhid. He was a brave and daring Red commander who never backed down from work in recovery, reactivation, and expansion.

Rosa Kian (Ka Roxanne) of the Dulangan Manobo minority joined the NPA after having been forged in the struggles in the Daguma mountains. She took part in the Lumad struggles to drive away destructive

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Highest tribute to the martyrs of Toboso

THE COMMUNIST PARTY of the Philippines gives its highest tribute to the martyrs of the Filipino people who were killed on April 19 in Barangay Salamanca, Toboso, Negros Occidental.

"The ruling classes celebrate and feast, while the oppressed masses are shrouded in sorrow over the deaths of their Red fighters who gave their all in fighting the fascist monsters," CPP chief information officer Marco Valbuena said. "The fascist AFP vilify the people's fallen heroes without end as 'terrorists' and 'criminals' in their desperation to justify their merciless war of suppression and to bury the gross abuses they inflict on the people."

Amid the disinformation and lies of the AFP, the people of Toboso and the whole of Negros know the Red fighters' resolve in the struggle for the rights of oppressed peasants. They regard their Red fighters as their own children, who selflessly served them as doctors, dentists, farmhand, and teachers.

"Let us drape their coffins with the Red flag of the revolution, raise our fists, and amplify our voices as we march to bring them to their graves," Valbuena called. Their sacrifices are certain to inspire even greater numbers to wage resistance and advance the revolution for national liberation and democracy.



Meanwhile, the intense militarization in the adjacent barangays of Salamanca and San Jose must be exposed and condemned. This has forced more than 600 individuals to evacuate and temporarily take shelter in an evacuation center. Their rights must be upheld.

Despotic landlord and retired soldier, killed in NPA operation

THE NEW PEOPLE'S Army (NPA)-South Central Negros (Romeo Nanta Command) meted revolutionary justice by enforcing the death penalty against despotic landlord and leader of *Alsa Masa* armed group Philippine Army 2LT Rodolfo Fajardo (Ret) on April 12. The people's army ambushed Fajardo in Barangay Payao, Binalbagan, Negros Occidental.

The punishment followed the order of the people's court in the area. The revolutionary court found him guilty of large-scale land grabbing, multiple killings, and grave abuse of power. Fajardo killed and ordered the killing of at least 14 peasants in a series of massacres, arson, and extrajudicial killings. He was also detachment commander in Barangay Cansalungon, Isabela in 1985-1986. The families of Fajardo's victims welcomed the punishment.

Meanwhile, the NPA-Northern Negros (Roselyn Jean Pelle Command) launched a harassment operation on the night of April 16 against 79th IB troops in Sitio Tub-an, Barangay Marcelo, Calatrava.

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mining, logging, and energy corporations that took their ancestral land. On becoming a Red fighter, she struck down the two pillars of oppression—patriarchy and national oppression.

Sacrifice of elders and youth

The determination to offer one's life for the Filipino masses knows no age. Veteran and young Red fighters alike have given their lives for the masses in the past years.

Red fighter couple Pedro Gemodo, 61, and Juliana Arculo Gemodo, 63, sacrificed their lives in Negros Oriental for the Negrosan people. For two decades, the Gemo-dos served as members of peasant

organizations in Guihulngan City until 2010, when they joined the NPA because of military pressure and threats to their lives.

Three young Red fighters in Kabankalan City, Negros Occidental fell as martyrs: Ritchell Verano (Ka Makoy), 26, Milky Sampini (Ka Gorting), 29, and Joedil (Ka Junjun), 21. With others of the Tapi 7, former student leader and Red fighter Dee Supelanas (Ka Dahlia) also became a martyr. Brief though their time in revolutionary struggle, their contributions to revolutionary work on the island are beyond measure.

Young 18-year-old woman Jennifer Paclita (Ka Jenny) personified

steadfastness in Samar. Responding to relatives who urged her to surrender, she patiently explained to them the need to wage armed struggle.

The martyrs of the Filipino people are indestructible monuments of the national democratic revolution. They exemplify the invaluable resolve to struggle side by side with the Filipino masses against imperialism, feudalism, and bureaucrat capitalism.

No tribute is greater than to continue treading the protracted and arduous road toward final victory. Imbued with their revolutionary spirit, persevere in advancing the democratic people's revolution to create a bright future. AB

Life with Red fighters and the masses

Amid worsening corruption, crisis, and fascism, the call to advance the people's war to end the ruling rotten system intensifies. As such, the New People's Army's (NPA) keeps its doors wide open to all who want to join in carving a new chapter in the country's history.

Celebrating the NPA's 57th anniversary, Ang Bayan interviewed unit commanders and cadres in Luzon to discuss the growing number of people, especially the youth, who go to the countryside to integrate with Red fighters and the masses in guerrilla zones.

By taking part in collectively shouldering the day-to-day tasks of the people's army, those who immerse themselves deepen their grasp of the armed struggle's correctness, and further strengthen their resolve to join the NPA.

Units prepare

Units strive their utmost to accept all who wish to immerse themselves. In preparation, the unit thoroughly examines the military situation and adjusts activities to prioritize the goals of the comrades who join their unit. Command meetings discuss the process of visitors' entry and their prospective program based on submitted recommendations and proposals. They also determine the visitors' gender and class

background. Necessary supplies are prepared such as hammocks, tents, personal items, food, and others.

In all preparations, the local masses and Party branches are key supporters of the commanders and fighters.

The program designed for visitors depends on the duration their stay, their expectations, learning goals, and strengths and weaknesses. The program includes politico-military exercises, martial arts and self-defense training, basic medical training, and studies on the Party and the army. The unit explains the possible limits on their desired goals given the military situation.

The priority is for those immersing to engage in mass work, production work, cultural work, workshops, educational discussions, forming groups, and other army tasks including logistics, medical work, and others.

Preparation

The newcomers are urged to be prepared for what they may experi-

ence in guerrilla life. Even before entering the zone, they must study the basic documents and regulations of the NPA. Above all, they must ensure firm conviction and readiness in body and mind.

"You may have 'grand experiences,' or 'mundane moments,'" said Ka Armand, one of the leaders of the units interviewed. He urged those immersing that "while here, be active in the daily life of the army, make the most of every hour and minute."

He advised anyone visiting not to hesitate to ask questions for things they want to learn, to engage in discussions with comrades, and to join all tasks—whether technical or political. For tasks they may find difficult, they should immediately inform the squad leader or their assigned host.

"Do not treat yourself as a mere guest, because you are an integral part of the army at your every moment here," Ka Arman advised.

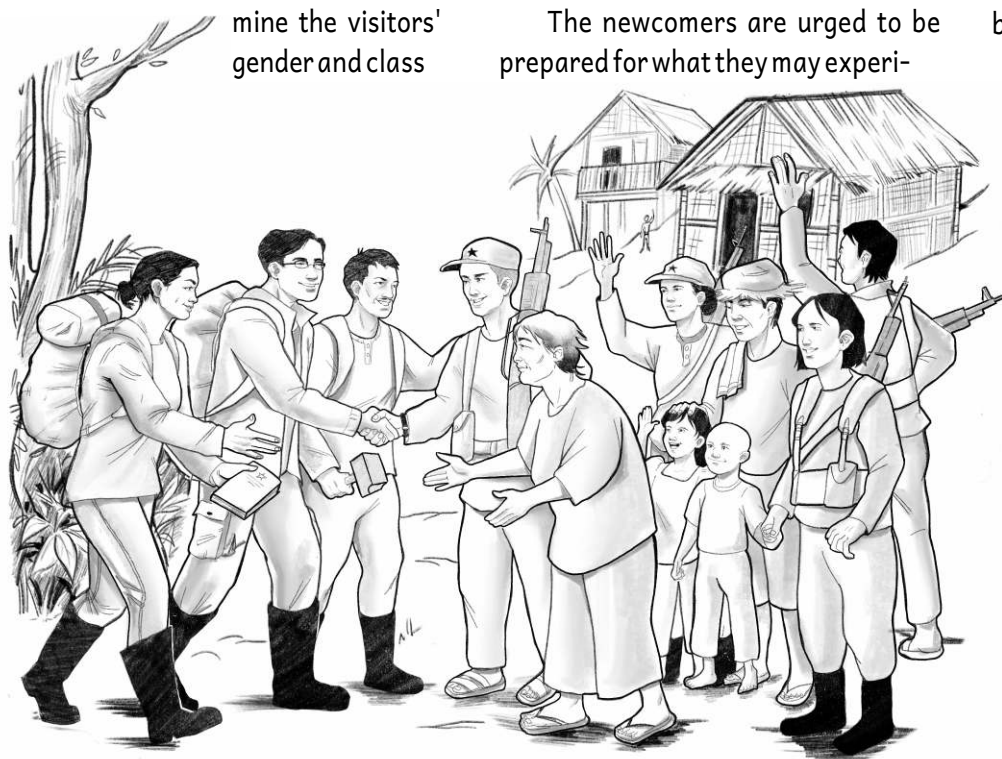
"Be prepared for possible combat, long marches, and others, since we are waging armed struggle," he said. He reminded them to be mindful of personal belongings and ensure nothing important is left behind.

"Overcoming unfamiliar routines like using the toilet, sleeping, walking, and others, will make everything else easier," he added.

Aside from essentials, those immersing must prepare their personal needs, such as medicines for uncommon illnesses and others.

"It's also nice, of course, if you bring small tokens for the comrades," he joked.

Most importantly, prepare yourself to answer the call of the people's democratic revolution and decide to work fulltime for the NPA.



US military use of civilian facilities in the Philippines is extremely dangerous

US imperialism shamelessly exploits and endangers civilian facilities and areas in its operations in the Philippines. With the puppet Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) in tow, US officials boasted of the “first-ever” use of civilian ships in prepositioning of military equipment in Mindanao and the transfer of these to Luzon. This comes with the multiple war games being conducted since January that will culminate in the so-called largest Balikatan this April.

The US positioned combat vehicles at the civilian port of Cagayan de Oro City on March 12-15 and transferred these to Subic Freeport using commercial ro-ro (roll on-roll off) vessels. In collusion with the 4th ID, it secretly carried out what it called a “rehearsal” for the rapid transfer and dispersal of war matériel across the archipelago. This was a slap on the face of Cagayan residents, as the positioning of equipment at the port was done without their knowledge after they had already expressed alarm over the US presence in their city.

The US also used Cebu South Port in what it called the Wartime Repair and Maintenance Exercise or SWARMEX on March 25. The war games involved the USS Ashland (LSD-48), an island-class landing ship, which docked at the pier sup-

posedly to conduct “wartime repair” of war-related damages. The US targets Cebu in its planned “unsinkable repair network” for its warships in Asia.

Cagayan de Oro Port and Cebu South Port are both civilian facilities. They are centers of commerce and transport of goods and passengers in the Visayas and Mindanao. If the country were to get dragged in a US war, local economies are bound to suffer. The US is already using these two cities' airports as “EDCA sites.”

The US opened bidding for the construction of an oil depot this April in Davao Gulf. It announced the plan to build the oil depot as early as August 2025 as strategic fuel storage for US forces' faster maneuvering in a “high intensity missile environment.” This means

that an intense armed conflict between the US and its adversaries may erupt any time, using missiles and other weapons already aimed at its bases in the Asia Pacific.

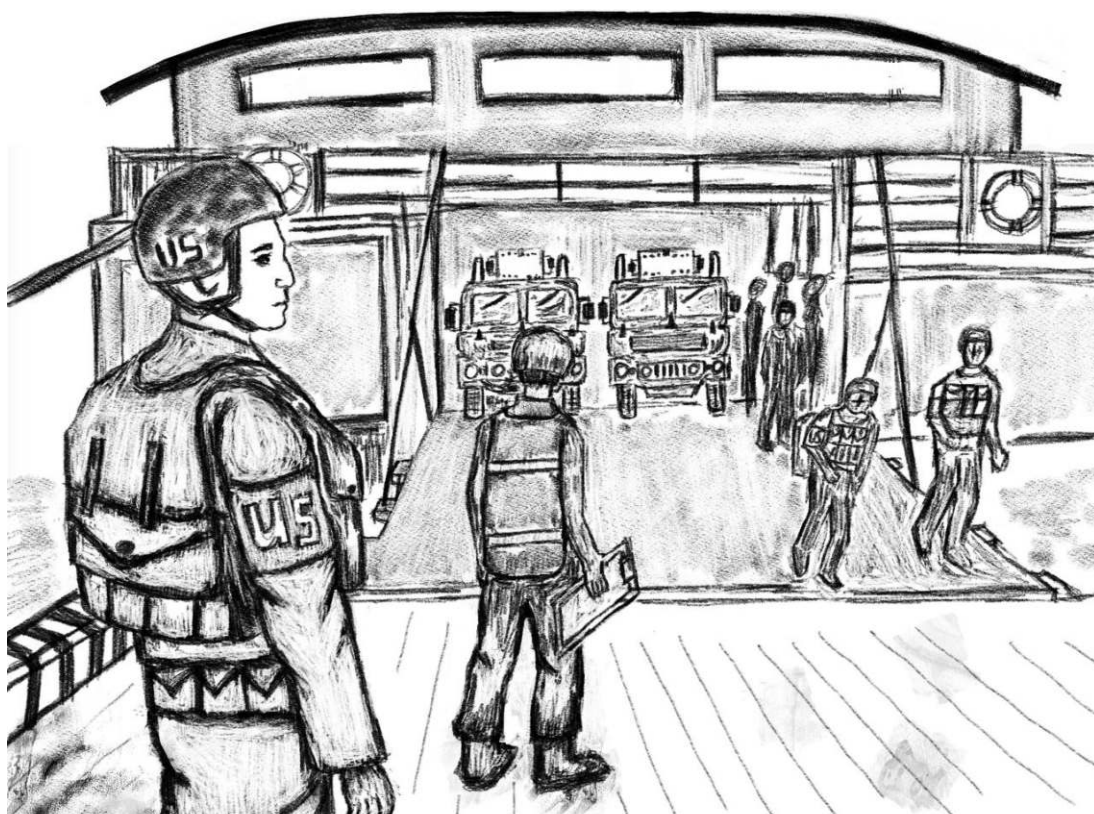
The US chose Cagayan de Oro, Cebu, and Davao for their relative distance from the western part of the country, where major American military bases are located. By the US' own assessment, these locations are useful because its adversaries will surely first target Subic, Clark, and its other military bases in Luzon.

Dispersal of war matériel

US war games in Cagayan de Oro and Cebu, as well as the planned oil depot in Davao, are framed under the concept of “distributed maritime operations” (DMO). This allows the US to spread equipment, fuel, troops, and weapons across islands to “deny targets” to its adversaries. These “rehearsals” aim to train rapid transport of military assets (vehicles, missiles, cannons, and others) using “host-nation infrastructure,” or Philippine facilities, both military and civilian.

The US use of civilian assets and services in its military operations is not new. Called “21st Century Foraging,” the US actively seeks civilian facilities, resources, and services instead of “relying on traditional military supply lines.” It builds what it calls a “hybrid military-civilian” supply line.

In the Philippines, such a “hybrid” supply line is already in place in Clark Air Base and Subic Freeport, former military bases now run by civilian



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Expanding calls to stop the US imperialist war on Iran

Calls are expanding to stop the imperialist war of the US, together with Israel, against Iran and other parts of the world. Hundreds of members of national-democratic organizations marched to the US embassy on April 9 to condemn the US for its attacks and continuing threats against the people of Iran. Despite a ceasefire agreement, the region remains unstable because the US insists that Iran surrender its sovereignty and its rights over the Strait of Hormuz.

Protesters also condemned the US-Marcos regime for dragging the Filipino people into endless imperialist wars that have driven up oil prices, along with food and other basic commodities. A similar protest took place in Cagayan Valley, which hosts official and unofficial EDCA sites.

Academics, teachers, and university employees at UP Diliman in Quezon City formed on April 14 the Coalition of Academics Against US Aggression, an alliance against the US war of aggression. Those in the science and technology sector are also gathering signatures to form a similar alliance.

Stop Balikatan

National-democratic groups protested at Camp Aguinaldo in Quezon City on April 20, the first day of Balikatan, to demand cancelling it along with other US war games in the Philippines. They said the expanding US military presence is dragging the Philippines into its wars of aggression. They also said these activities squander billions of the people's money, both American

and Filipino, while millions suffer from the US war on Iran.

The US carried out at least six war games and military activities in the country since January. It used civilian ports and airports in the cities of Cagayan de Oro, Cebu, and Tacloban. It also conducted three sea launchings, under the cover of maritime cooperation, in the South China Sea to intervene in maritime disputes between China and countries in Southeast Asia.

To normalize their presence, military units of the US launched civil-military operations in Quezon province and Tuguegarao City. It also carried out Salaknib from April 6-9, involving 7,000 troopers. All these culminate in Balikatan 2026, said to be the "largest" and will "cover the entire archipelago." It will involve 17,000 troops, 10,000 of whom are American, with the rest from the Philippines, Japan, France, Australia, Canada, and New Zealand. For an activity supposedly for "regional security," not a single Southeast Asian country is participating.



Against Pax Silica

Patriotic groups also condemned the Marcos Jr regime's entry into Pax Silica, a US program in which the Philippines will supply the US military with critical minerals needed to produce war matériel. The US plan includes building a 1,619-hectare "economic security zone" in Luzon for producing electronics used for its missiles, warplanes, and drones.

The US will control this zone rent-free for up to 99 years. It will be granted diplomatic immunity, like the US embassy. Thus, it will not be subject to Philippine laws; instead, US law will apply inside the economic zone. Like their soldiers, their personnel there will be immune from Philippine law and punishment, whatever crimes they may commit. AB

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agencies. The US is expanding this by building factories and warehouses in export processing zones in Aurora and Cagayan.

US enemy's targets

The US deliberately endangers the Philippines by using civilian infrastructure and communities for military purposes. It blurs the line between civilian and military, turning civilian lives, communities, and

property into targets. Even when claiming that the war games in Cagayan de Oro and Cebu are merely "rehearsals," the US is clearly testing the capability of ports and seas in preparation for the imperialist war it is stoking in Asia.

International humanitarian law strictly prohibits targeting civilian property in wartime. However, they become legitimate military targets when used for military purposes.

Because the US military uses civilian barges or ro-ro vessels, as well as ports and airports, to transport tanks, missiles, and other war equipment, these may be targeted by US adversaries if war breaks out, risking even the workers who operate them. The US military itself used this excuse when it bombed civilian infrastructure in Iran on the grounds that these served the country's military purposes. AB

People's protest against the oil crisis and US war aggression

Public transport drivers and operators, workers, urban poor residents, youth students, and other sectors carried out various forms of action on April 15-17 against the extremely high price of oil and the war aggression of the US and Israel in Iran and other parts of the Middle East. Dubbed a people's protest, they launched transport strikes, walkouts, pickets, noise barrages, concerts, protest camps, fishing stoppages, and motorcades in Metro Manila and in other cities and provinces.

Led by Piston (Pagkakaisa ng mga Samahan ng Tsuper at Operator Nationwide, or Unity of Drivers' and Operators' Associations Nationwide), drivers and operators staged protests in at least 10 centers in Metro Manila. Protests were also held in Legazpi City and in four centers in Cebu City.

The combined transport strike of Undoc-Piston, KNETCO, and Bacod-Manibela paralyzed routes in Bacolod City on April 15. Meanwhile, the group Manibela launched a separate transport strike in Metro Manila and other cities from April 15-17.

University of the Philippines-Diliman students walked out of classes on April 15. They also used

concerts at the UP Fair from April 15-18 to highlight calls against US war aggression, high oil prices, and the economic crisis.

Cavite and Navotas City fisherfolk stopped going out to sea on April 17 to join the actions. That same day, Kalikasan group marched to and protested at the Shell headquarters in Bonifacio Global City in Taguig City to denounce the company's greed for profit.

The workers' strike at Kowloon House West and the protest camp of urban poor residents at the Department of Social Welfare and Development in Quezon City were also part of the people's protest.

Commuters and supporters joined by setting up people's

kitchens and community pantries for drivers and operators. Led by PARA-Commuters' Network, the initiative was launched in Metro Manila and in the cities of Baguio, Batangas, Cebu, and Davao. Students from public and private schools and universities joined in troves. This indicts the Marcos regime's incompetence in addressing the grievances and hunger of the poor. On April 18, a motorcycle taxi rider died in Quezon City while lining up to receive the regime's meager aid.

Meanwhile, Piston filed a petition for a ₱10 fare increase on April 20 at the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) so drivers' income can keep pace with extremely expensive diesel. On the same day, the Bus Employees Association of the Philippines protested at the LTFRB to hold the agency accountable. Starting April 21, groups are launching a new series of people's protests. AB

Kowloon workers' strike yields gains

AFTER SIX DAYS of strike, workers of Kowloon House West Avenue in Quezon City forced the company to implement a long overdue wage increase and benefits. In negotiations on April 20, they agreed on a ₱20/day wage increase and the management's payment of its ₱570,000 service charge debt to the workers.

Workers launched the strike on April 15 in response to the management's wage suppression in negotiations for a new collective bargaining agreement (CBA). All workers voted to launch it on April 8.

Prior to the strike, the company's final offer was a ₱13 daily wage increase against the workers' demand of ₱25. This was still the agreed upon wage increase amount in their 2020-2022 CBA. The company has already failed to release around ₱5.5 million in wages and benefits.

The strike succeeded because of the workers' firmness and their union Glowhrain-KMU-Kowloon House West Chapter, and because of the broad support from fellow workers, students, professionals and groups. The union expressed deep gratitude to all who supported them.

19th IB forces minors to "surrender"

SOLDIERS OF THE 19th IB repeatedly visited two minors at their home in Barangay Paco, Las Navas, Northern Samar on April 8 to force them to "surrender." The youths are siblings aged 17 and 15.

They are the children of farmer Edwar Yanay, whom the military has long targeted in its surrender campaign for allegedly being linked to the revolutionary armed movement. They are being forced to surrender to draw out their father and force him to surrender.

The soldiers summoned the siblings to the 19th IB headquarters in Barangay Opong, Catubig. Out of fear, the older sibling fled their home in Barangay Paco and remains missing to this day. The 19th IB is also harassing and intimidating other members of the Yanay family.



₱13-18/month

is all that was cut by the Marcos regime's performative removal of excise tax on LPG and kerosene; only 7.1 million (51%) of the poorest families in the country use LPG.

Source: Ibon Foundation.

24 hours



and not 11 days, spent by Sara Duterte squandering ₱125 million in confidential funds, according to Ramil Madriaga, former Duterte family operator, now a witness in Duterte's impeachment.

₱505 national average minimum wage, only 39.5% of the estimated ₱1,277 average living wage as of March.

₱46.5 billion or ₱1.5 billion is the estimated daily profit of local oil companies since the US and Israel attacked Iran on February 28.

₱290/trip is a driver's earnings under the deceptive and limited net service contracting where the subsidy is only ₱40-₱100 per kilometer.



This will further shrink until there is rollback in oil prices, which are again threatening to rise.

Source: Piston

20-30% of trucks transporting food and other products already stopped operating because of soaring oil prices. Drivers' income fell from ₱1,000-₱1,200 to only ₱500-₱600.

100% online learning allowed by CHED under Memorandum No. 117 mandating universities and colleges to implement, supposedly to ease the burden on students and teachers. It is considered a band-aid solution and deception because the state simply shifts the financial burden onto students and their families.

Source: Rise for Education Davao



75,492 were arrested by police and barangay patrol under the DILG's abusive, dubious, and anti-poor Safer Cities policy. Those arbitrarily arrested include workers not wearing t-shirts.

Demolition against the urban poor amid crisis and hardship

The US-Marcos regime and private corporations and businesses are relentlessly driving the urban poor out of their communities this April. They divest the urban poor of their right to housing, livelihood, and life amid the worsening economic crisis driven by the imperialist war of the US and Israel against Iran and the US-Marcos regime's incompetence.

In Quezon City, the National Housing Authority demolished on April 9 the houses and structures along NIA Road, Barangay Pinyahan that remained after successive fires hit the community. Police arrested seven residents at the height of the demolition. Meanwhile, a demolition in Cambridge in Barangay E. Rodriguez in Cubao evicted more than 30 families.

Nearly 1,000 Monocrete Construction Company personnel and 300 Philippine National Police (PNP) and SWAT personnel dismantled the barricade of residents opposing the demolition in Panday Creekside, Barangay Palingon-Tipas, Taguig City on April 13. Police used tear gas and threw bottles at residents, while police snipers around the area aimed. Seven individuals were arrested in the demolition.

Several houses have already been torn down and an estimated 300 families of sharers, renters, and tenants face eviction from the community. Up to 218 residents, including 35 children, 14 elderly, five persons with disabilities, and four pregnant women are staying in roadside makeshift shelters.

Bambang Land Corporation and police violently demolished more than 70 houses in Purok 6B, Barangay Bambang, Los Baños, Laguna on April 14. They treacherously carried out the demolition when a dialogue was being held be-



tween residents and the company on that same day. Residents have lived in Purok 6B for six decades, and in 2004 the government recognized their rights to their occupied land.

At least 40 families were disrupted by the forced fencing of their community on Calachuchi Road, Barangay Andagao, Kalibo, Aklan on April 15. The community was surrounded with metal sheets, caging residents, including the elderly, pregnant women, and children. Landowner Jesus Daroy is driving residents out.

The Iloilo City local government violently drove away street vendors in front of the privatized Iloilo Terminal Market operated by SM Prime on the night of April 10. The Local Economic Enterprise Office, the PNP, and SWAT carried out this operation. They confiscated goods and robbed the vendors of their personal belongings and cash. Harassment and eviction continued in the following days.

A Davao City community local government demolished and evicted an estimated 100 families in Matina Aplaya on April 14. Residents plan to file a case in court against the illegal demolition.

Meanwhile, authorities violently dismantled the protest camp of

more than 2,000 urban poor from Quezon City, Caloocan City, and Bulacan at the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) national office in Barangay Batasan Hills, Quezon City that started on April 13. They demanded compensation or indemnification for those affected by disasters since 2025. Police repeatedly threatened and assaulted the urban poor, including the elderly and women.

According to the Katipunan ng mga Samahang Manggagawa (Kasama, or Alliance of Workers' Associations), a National Democratic Front of the Philippines allied organization, intensifying repression and exploitation are further pushing the urban poor and semi-proletariat to take the path of people's democratic revolution. The group called to strengthen and consolidate their basic organizations—unions, community associations, livelihood-based organizations, and people's organizations—as well as revolutionary organizations of workers and semi-proletariat.

"Our movement must vigorously strengthen and expand the struggles for democratic rights through militant mass actions that challenge and further indict the very foundations of the reactionary system," it said. AB

Militarization in BARMM, repression by plunderers

The Marcos regime sabotages the peace process in Bangsamoro to justify the continued massive Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) deployment to secure the interests of land grabbers and plunderers of the Moro people's wealth.

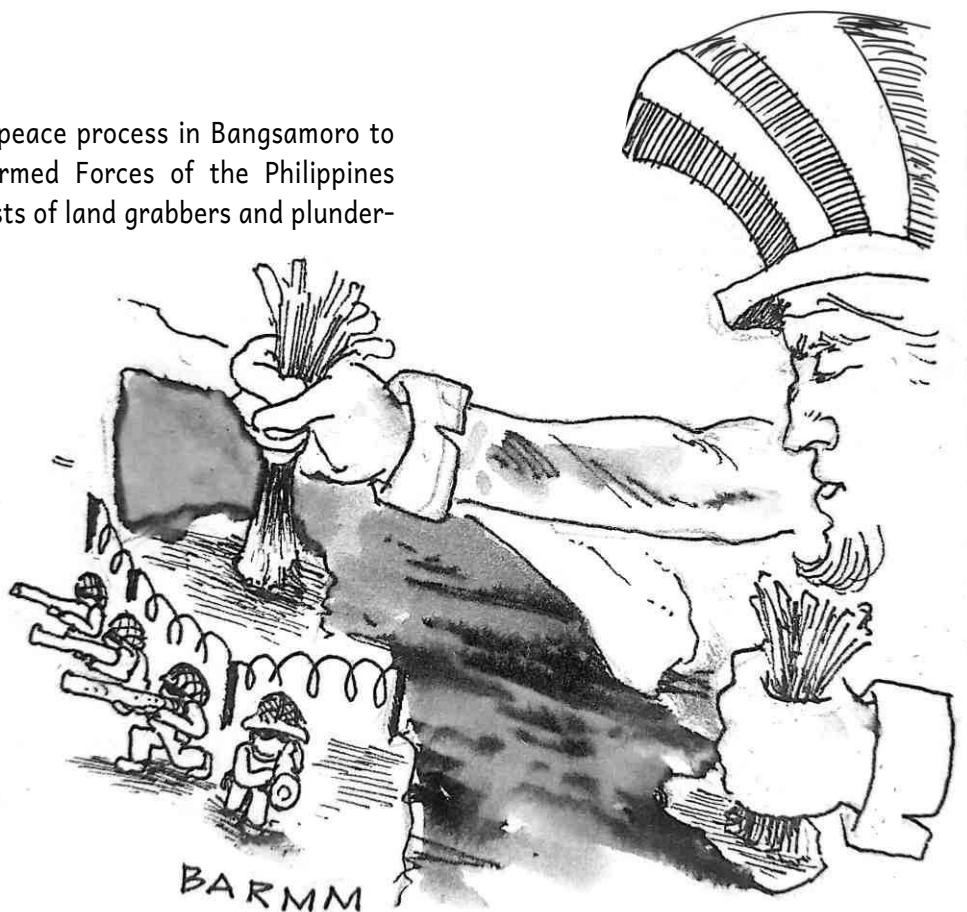
Since the Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro (CAB) was signed, land use conversion has continued in areas in the region labeled as "conflict-ridden." Under the cover of "economic development" and the "peace dividend" of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM), vast lands and seas have been opened to local and foreign plantations, mining, energy facilities, and other destructive projects.

The Government of the Republic of the Philippines (GRP) uses the AFP, paramilitaries and private armed groups, to clear the way for foreign corporations and their local partners. They collude with the Moro elite now in power.

The Marcos regime also uses the Southern Philippines Development Authority (SPDA) as a "mechanism" for "economic recovery and development in Bangsamoro." Established in 1975 by the Marcos Sr dictatorship, the SPDA is directly controlled by the current president to manage the flow of capital and kickbacks from projects. It has the authority to seize large tracts of land and evict anyone living on or cultivating them. The GRP appointed its Moro allies to the SPDA as mere token.

Rich agricultural lands

The SPDA's largest project is the Agro-Industrial Development Program in Wao and Amai Manabilang areas in Lanao del Sur, where American companies have now entered. Asia Pacific Precision Agriculture Group and EcoPlanet Bamboo, along with Kennemer



Foods (for Mars Inc.), have taken over 26,000 hectares of agricultural land. The SPDA also introduced Mount Kalatungan Agri Ventures, in partnership with the Japanese firm Sumifru, for a 4,000-hectare plantation in Lanao del Sur for bananas for export. Soldiers, police, private armed groups, and CAFGU are driving thousands of Moro, Lumad, and settler farmers out of these lands.

A few months after the CAB was signed in November 2014, Unifrutti, a subsidiary of the American company Chiquita Brands International, "invested" \$120 million to establish a banana plantation covering the MILF's former Camp Abubakar in Maguindanao.

Foreign oil palm plantations expanded in Basilan. Kenram Palmoil Industries, Inc. announced plans to establish a 12,000-hectare oil palm plantation in 2026. Large-scale land conversion has resulted in deforestation and the seizure of farmers' lands. Kenram already has oil palm plantations in Maguindanao and South Cotabato.

Energy sources

One of the richest areas in BARMM, and in the entire Philippines, is the 288,000-hectare Liguasan Marsh, said to potentially yield up to 4.8 billion barrels and 3.4 trillion cubic feet (TCF) of natural gas. The Moro armed struggle has long preserved this area along with its environment and the livelihoods of its residents. Under BARMM, large portions have been opened to exploration despite warnings of ecosystem destruction and massive community displacement. A Philippine company leads the exploration, partnered with United Kingdom-based NextMetals. Major companies Shell and Chevron have expressed interest.

Ferdinand Marcos Jr opened 1.31 million hectares of seas in the Sulu and Tawi-Tawi archipelago to natural gas exploration in October 2025. This covers the ancestral waters of the Tausug, Sama, Yakan, and other Moro peoples. It is esti-

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Fake encounters exposed

NEW PEOPLES'S ARMY (NPA) units refuted the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) reports of encounters with the people's army in recent weeks. In these fabricated encounters, soldiers squandered funds amid the severe economic crisis now suffered by the Filipino masses.

The NPA-Camarines Sur (Eduardo Olbara Command) exposed the false reports of a supposed encounter in Barangay Pararao, Balatan on April 9. In truth, soldiers fired indiscriminately for 30 minutes and even used two helicopters.

The 79th IB did not have an encounter with the NPA-Northern Negros (Roselyn Jean Pelle Command) in Negros Occidental but staged one using the military's own units on April 16 in Barangay Minautok, Calatrava. Their own ineptitude wounded one of their soldiers in the drama. The 79th IB then turned its anger on community residents and detained them for several hours, including minors and children.

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mated to contain around 10 TCF of natural gas (comparable to Malampaya). Marcos awarded the contract to companies based in Australia and the UK, with big bourgeois-comprador Manuel Pangilinan as partner.

Still mired in poverty and oppression

The Bangsamoro does not benefit from the contracts entered into and to be entered into by the GRP and some of its Moro partners. BARMM has long had one of the highest poverty rates (23.5%, double the national average). State data show BARMM remains the weakest in literacy, nutrition, education, and overall living standards in the country.

Hundreds of thousands of Moro are landless and face the seizure of their farms due to the expansion of plantations and "development" projects. Most of those considered employed are in agriculture (60%), where work is irregular and wages are low. Even by the state's deliberately underestimated figures, nearly half of families in the region (48%) lack sufficient food.

Wages range from ₱366-₱411 per day, the lowest in the country. According to the Ibon Foundation, ₱1,947 is needed for a five-member family in the region to live decently. The gap between the minimum and living wage is ₱1,606, the largest in the country. The last wage increase was a meager ₱50 granted in July 2025.

In this situation, MILF's refusal to proceed with decommissioning its weapons is not surprising. Their people remain mired in poverty, and the GRP sabotages their opportunity to manage their resources and improve the lives of the Moro. **AB**



Farmers hold protest camp against VAT.

Hundreds of farmers, fisherfolk, sugar workers, and other sectors from Batangas District 1 held a protest camp from April 8-13 at Liwasang Bonifacio in Manila. They protested at the House of Representatives in Quezon City on the final day of the camp. They demand the removal of the value-added tax (VAT) and excise tax on petroleum products, wage increases, and lower prices of basic commodities.

Laguna residents picket against destructive sanitary landfill.

Residents of Barangay Imok, Calauan, Laguna protested at the Laguna Provincial Capitol on April 8 to oppose the plan of South Luzon Waste Management Corporation to build an 84.23-hectare sanitary landfill in their community. They timed the protest with the day of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan special session which junked the permit for the project.

Petition against privatization in Cebu.

Various sectors and groups in Cebu City led by the Carbon-hanong Alyansa launched on April 11 the collection of 100,000 signatures against the privatization of the Carbon Public Market. They will submit the petition to the Cebu City Council to demand legislative action and a review of the privatization agreement.

Call to surface Davao workers' leader.

Progressive groups in Davao City protested on April 9 to reiterate their demand to surface desaparecido Southern Mindanao labor leader William Lariosa. Lariosa was last seen in Barangay Butong, Quezon, Bukidnon on April 10, 2024, when 48th IB elements abducted him.

IRRI abuses, condemned anew.

Farmers and youth groups protested at the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) in Los Baños, Laguna on April 13 to condemn its continuing abuses against farmers and the inhumane use of university land. The institution marked its 66th founding anniversary on April 4.