



# UPDATES PHILIPPINES

RELEASED BY THE NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC FRONT OF THE PHILIPPINES

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## BREAKING NEWS:

**The Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Philippines ordered on 15 April the extension of its unilateral ceasefire until 30 April 2020, in the face of the continuing public health crisis over the Covid-19 pandemic. UP [Read the CPP declaration here.](#)**

## EDITORIAL

### 51 and growing ever stronger

Just three months after its re-establishment, the Communist Party of the Philippines established the New People's Army on 29 March 1969 to initiate the painstaking work of building people's democracy in the vast countryside of the Philippines.

The first small units of the NPA were given the gargantuan mission of developing guerilla zones and fronts in various parts of the country, develop rural mass organizations, initiate land reform programs, thereby enabling the growth of the democratic revolution. All the while defending and persevering against the attacks of the US-supported Marcos fascist dictatorship and its successor regimes.

51 years on, the NPA has reaped glorious victories in expanding the revolutionary mass bases, undertaking land reform programs, defending against the counter-revolutionary armed forces and in building Red political power in the countryside. From small and weak, it now operates in 73 out of the total 81 provinces across the archipelago.

The Filipino people cherish and support the NPA because it is effectively and resolutely fighting for their aspirations for national liberation, genuine democracy, agrarian revolution, national industrialization and just peace. Under the leadership of the CPP, the NPA is moving steadily from the middle stage of the strategic defensive and onwards to the threshold of the strategic stalemate. **UP**



*Security agents of President Rodrigo Duterte continue armed operations against Filipino people despite ceasefire declaration.  
Photo: eturbonews.com*

## NDFP updates UN on Philippine ceasefire

The National Council of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) transmitted to UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres, the 13 April 2020 report of the Communist Party of the Philippines. The report gave details of the continuing counter-insurgency operations conducted by the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine National Police of the Government of the Republic of the Philippines (GRP) since 19 March 2020. The report was based on field reports and monitoring over the past three weeks by the New People's Army (NPA).

The report stated that since the Covid-19 ceasefire of the GRP from 16 March to 15 April, military and police units of the GRP conducted counter-insurgency operations in 196 villages in 96 towns. The AFP mounted at least 13 attacks against the NPA. There were at least five incidents of aerial bombardment and artillery shelling on 17, 24 and 27-29 of March. These took place in Davao del Norte, Davao de Oro and Bukidnon provinces, all in the southern island of Mindanao.

According to the CPP report, GRP armed troops roam around civilian communities, set up checkpoints, prohibit people from buying food and other necessities and prevent peasants from tending to their crops, all under the guise of conducting Covid-19 related activities.

There were also reports of arrests of peasants, including the detention of 11 indigenous farmers in Pantukan town as well as the arrest of a 71-year old peasant who was accused of being a member of the NPA.

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In the meantime, during the CPP's unilateral ceasefire, the NPA, the Party and the entire membership of the NDFP continue to carry out programs in all 73 provinces where they operate. In partnership with health committees of local peasant organizations and organs of political power, they have launched a public health campaign to help the people implement measures to prevent the spread of the Covid-19. The CPP reported that the campaign has been well received by the masses because it has empowered and encouraged them to take the necessary actions against the virus.

They also have plans to carry out a widespread campaign to raise food production, as well as push for the just demands of the peasants to lower land rent or have it temporarily waived, lower interest rates and cancel debts, raise farm wages and demand fair prices for farm produce as well as other agrarian reforms.

The National Council of the NDFP expressed again its deep appreciation for the UN Secretary General's call for global unity to effectively combat the Covid-19 pandemic. It reiterated the NDFP's commitment to continue its programs throughout the country to protect the people against the further spread of the virus.

It concluded by saying that the National Council of the NDFP, the Communist Party of the Philippines and the New People's Army would soon decide regarding the unilateral ceasefire of the CPP that would end on 15 April 2020. **UP** [[See Breaking News](#)]



## Filipinos celebrate victories in People's War

Amidst the Covid-19 pandemic, the revolutionary movement and the Filipino people celebrated the 51st anniversary of the New People's Army (NPA) on 29 March by hailing its victories in the people's war and its continued strength.

After surviving the Marcos dictatorship and all succeeding counter-revolutionary governments, the NPA now reportedly operates in more than 110 guerilla fronts in 73 out of the total 81 provinces in the country.

Marco Valbuena, Information Officer of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), lauded the NPA for being successful

in frustrating the Duterte government's threat to destroy 30 guerilla fronts by the end of 2019. He said that instead of being weakened, the NPA was able to fight back against the non-stop attacks of Duterte's armed forces.

Citing reports from the NPA National Operations Command, Valbuena said that the people's army carried out 710 big and small military actions in 2019, from harassment and disarming operations to partisan operations, raids on detachments and ambushes. He said these resulted in a high number of casualty in the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP): the equivalent of 30 platoons or two battalions, in which 651 soldiers were killed and 465 were wounded in action.

The CPP Central Committee directed the NPA to mark its anniversary by reaffirming its commitment to serve the people, by mobilizing its ranks and revolutionary mass organizations for a public health campaign against the spread of Covid-19.

In response to the United Nations Secretary-General's call for a global ceasefire in the face of the Covid-19 pandemic, the CPP unilaterally declared a ceasefire effective 26 March until 15 April. It ordered the NPA to cease and desist from launching offensives, while remaining vigilant against enemy attacks.

For his part, Prof. Jose Maria Sison, CPP Founding Chairman, lauded the NPA's "key role" in the Filipino people's struggle against US imperialism and the local ruling classes of big comprador capitalists and landlords.

Sison said that all regimes that sought to destroy the NPA were supported by US imperialism, which he said considers the Philippines its favorite neocolony and "unsinkable armada in the Pacific Ocean."

He said that the people's war being waged by the NPA "is now in the process of moving from the middle to the advanced phase of the strategic defensive" and is in a good position to expand and strengthen itself amidst the crisis heightened by the Covid-19 pandemic.

While the revolution has not yet won, Sison said, the NPA and the revolutionary movement "have already established on a national scale the local organs of political power" and these, he said, forms "the people's democratic government."

He said, "The constant reference by the counterrevolutionary state to the NPA as the No. 1 threat to 'national security' attests to the great victory of the NPA in developing itself as the instrument of the people in their struggle for national and social liberation." **UP**

## NPA mother inspires women and youth for revolution

Comrade Lori, a 47-year old woman, mother to several children and a Red fighter in the New People's Army, was featured in the 21 March issue of Ang Bayan, the official newspaper of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), as a shining inspiration to all women to fight and liberate themselves from oppression and repression.

Though it was very painful to leave her children, Ka Lori decided to join the NPA in 2018 in the Bicol region, south of Metro Manila. Her children, some already adults at the time, accepted her decision after they saw her as a member of the Party branch in the area. "I saw this as our hope. This government is for the poor," she said.

Ka Lori comes from the peasant class. She earned the equivalent of US\$3.00 for every thousand coconuts she husks, which fell much short of what the family needed for food. She had to peddle vegetables and fish to augment this and pay for past debts. She took the bulk of the burden in raising the children due to misunderstandings with their father. Five of her children were forced by their poverty to take their chances in finding work in Manila.

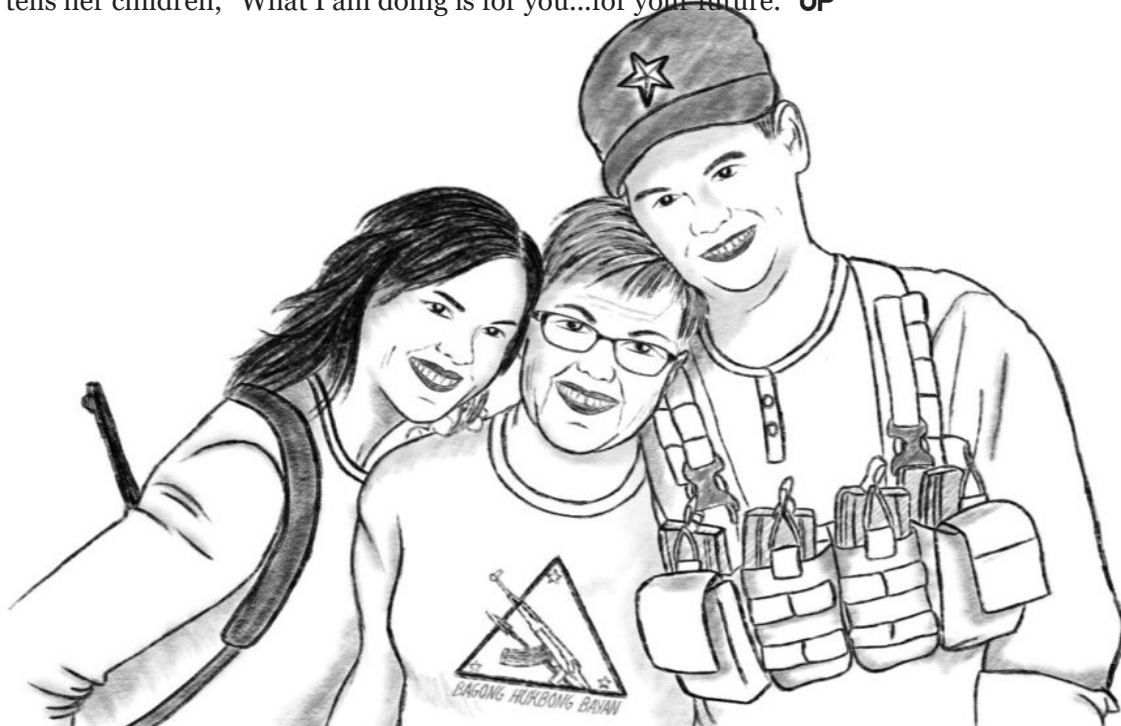
When she first joined the NPA, Ka Lori was given supply and kitchen assignments. In the years that followed, she took on a lot of other duties like leading study sessions, chairing meetings and supporting her comrades in the unit. She became an inspiration for her children: Two sons, Ka Tom and Ka Ali, eventually left their menial jobs in the cities to join the NPA.

Ka Lori's comradely treatment of her sons shows in her respect for their decisions. Even if faced with misgivings, she supports them in accomplishing tasks like military activity, training and organizing work in distant areas.

They treat and help each other as comrades in strengthening the people's army. Tom and Ali are not spared criticisms from their mother and vice versa. Ka Lori always admonishes them, "Let's gradually change the culture we brought in from the outside and follow the rules of the army". They call on the other relatives to also join the people's army.

There are times Ka Lori longs for her younger children. Although she becomes a bit sad in such situations, she takes comfort in the fact that the local Party branch takes care of her family and provides financial support for their immediate needs. Her NPA unit also plans for her to contact and visit her children.

Ka Lori tells her children, "What I am doing is for you...for your future." **UP**



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