

## Court fines 38 Kadamay members P200 each for trespassing

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The **Quezon City Metropolitan Trial Court (MeTC)** has convicted 38 members of the Kalipunan ng Damayang Mahihirap (Kadamay) who reoccupied a contested property in Quezon City from which they were evicted in 2017.

In a 12-page decision promulgated on Feb. 22, Quezon City MeTC Branch 43 Judge Don Ace Mariano Aguilar found the Kadamay members guilty of trespassing under Article 281 of the Revised Penal Code. They were fined P200 each.

The members the

urban poor group reoccupied a 1,668-square-meter lot along Apollo street in Barangay Tangdang Sora after they were evicted in April 2017.

The court said the Kadamay members broke into the property despite being prohibited by the owner. They overpowered the security guard and destroyed the gates of the property.

The judge imposed fines instead of prison term because of the situation of the Kadamay members at the time.

The Kadamay members said they were forced to reoccupy the property under the circumstances of selfpreservation as they were also evicted along the sidewalk where they stayed.

The court junked the cases against three other respondents – Tirso Mangubat, Aileen Mangubat and Mark Anthony Roadilla – who died during the trial.

The court also dismissed for lack of evidence the charge of grave coercion against the respondents in June 2019.