

ANG

Pahayagan ng Partido Komunista ng Pilipinas  
Pinapatnubayan ng Marxismo-Leninismo-Maoismo

# Bayan

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Editorial

## Celebrate 45 years of the CPP!

Let us celebrate the 45th founding anniversary of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) on December 26 to hail the great victories achieved in 45 years of all-out revolutionary struggle and sacrifice and reaffirm our determination to advance the national-democratic revolution.

Let us remember, pay homage to, and give thanks, to the thousands of martyrs who unselfishly devoted their talents, their strength, their abilities and their lives to attain the national aspirations and the social liberation of the entire people.

The annual commemoration of the Party's founding is a joyous occasion for all of the Filipino people and their revolutionary forces. Year after year, it is an opportunity to call to mind the victories of the previous year and prepare to address the challenges of advancing the revolution in the coming year.

The Party's forthcoming anniversary is especially significant. We will be marking it at a time when major advances are being achieved in guerrilla warfare, building the people's democratic power and building the

people's broad unity.

Wherever it takes root, the Party and the entire revolutionary movement embody and advance the people's immediate and long-term interests. The Party's consummate concern for, and wholehearted service to, the people are matched only by the people's unbounded love for it and by their fierce loathing for the exploiters and oppressors.

Nationwide, Party branches among the workers, peasants and other oppressed masses

are being formed. They use the Party as their weapon in changing their lives and giving shape to their history. The power of the people has sprung forth with their solidarity, their taking up arms and their struggle.

Above all, it is the Party's unity with the masses that has served as the decisive factor in the CPP's growing strength and expansion. It established the people's army as the people's main instrument in defeating the enemy's brutal power. A new and genuine people's democratic government has emerged from the ranks of the mass organizations.

Following the Party's call since 2009, guerrilla warfare is being intensified nationwide to advance people's war from the strategic defensive to the strategic stalemate. The enemy has utterly failed in its goal of reducing the armed struggle to insignificance in 2013. The revolutionary movement is rapidly gaining strength all over the



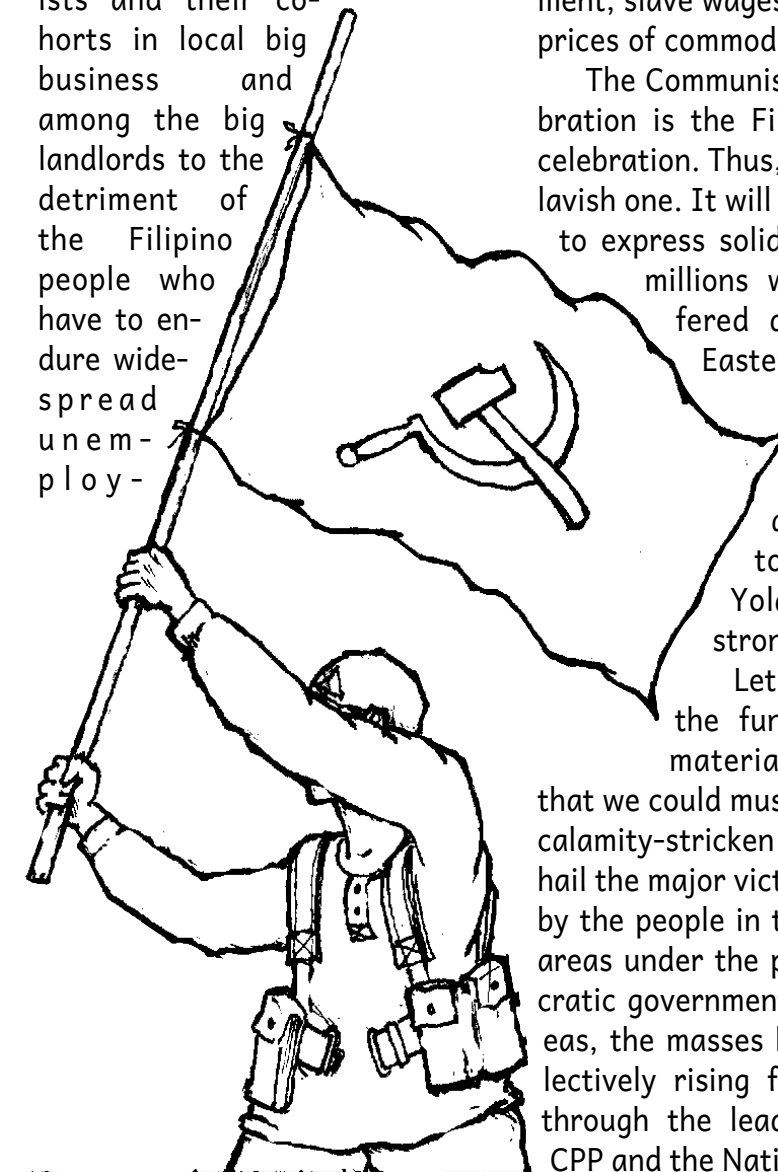
country.

On the other hand, there are major challenges that the entire Party must confront. Everyone must expertly wield the weapon of Marxism-Leninism-Maoism in order to address issues and resolve problems and make the leap from the current stage to the succeeding one. Everyone must work together to carry forward the entire revolutionary movement to a new chapter of advance.

In the course of several years, the crisis of the ruling semicolonial and semifeudal system and the international capitalist system has inexorably worsened and the exploitation, oppression and suffering of the working class and the Filipino people have further intensified. Attacks by the reactionary forces on the struggling people have been escalating in brutality. Their poverty and suffering are now at their most severe.

Like past regimes, the current ruling Aquino regime imposes policies that cater to the interests of foreign big capital-

ists and their cohorts in local big business and among the big landlords to the detriment of the Filipino people who have to endure widespread unemployment-




ment, slave wages and spiralling prices of commodities.

The Communist Party's celebration is the Filipino people's celebration. Thus, it will not be a lavish one. It will be an occasion to express solidarity with the millions who have suffered devastation in Eastern Visayas and the islands of Panay, Negros, Cebu and Bohol due to typhoon Yolanda and the strong earthquake.

Let us gather all the funds and other material assistance that we could muster to help the calamity-stricken areas. Let us hail the major victories achieved by the people in the devastated areas under the people's democratic government. In these areas, the masses have been collectively rising from the ruins through the leadership of the CPP and the National Democratic Front of the Philippines and marching towards their long-term rehabilitation.

Currently, the CPP's local branches and sections, the Barrio Revolutionary Committees and local revolutionary mass organizations of peasants, women, youth, cultural workers, children and others and the local commands and units of the New People's Army and people's militia are busy preparing accommodations for the tens of thousands who are expected to join people's assemblies on December 26. Among those who will be coming are visitors from the cities or other towns, the media and allies.

These assemblies demonstrate in the concrete how deeply and solidly the Party has taken root among the Filipino people. **AB**

	
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# CPP declares ceasefire on its anniversary

The Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) declared a ceasefire from 00:00 hours of December 24 to 23:59 hours of December 26; and from 00:00 hours of December 31 to 23:59 hours of January 2, 2014. The declaration was issued to all commands and units of the New People's Army (NPA) and people's militia.

During these periods, all commands of the NPA and people's militia will cease and desist from launching offensive operations against the armed units and personnel of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), the Philippine National Police (PNP) and all other paramilitary forces attached to the Government of the Republic of the Philippines.

But the Central Committee strongly reminded the units and commands of the NPA and people's militia that while on active defense mode, they must remain vigilant against any encroachments by the reactionary armed forces and its attached armed groups into the territory of the people's democratic government. In the face of clear and present danger, units of the NPA and the people's militia must maintain the option of fighting in self-defense and preventing the enemy from unleashing its brutality on the people.

The declaration was issued in solidarity with the Filipino people's traditional observance of Christmas and the New Year.

In addition, the ceasefire will give the Filipino people and their revolutionary forces the opportunity to join mass celebrations to mark the 45th anniversary of the CPP's reestablishment on December 26. NPA Red fighters will be ensuring the security of the large number of people expected to throng to the various assembly points within guerrilla zones to join the cele-

brations.

This declaration extends by another two days the ceasefire already declared by the regional NPA commands in Eastern Visayas, Panay Island, Central Visayas and Negros Island, where the revolutionary forces have been mobilized to assist the masses in the areas that have been devastated by supertyphoon Yolanda.



The CPP Regional Committee in Eastern Visayas had also earlier declared a ceasefire up to mid-January due to the extent of the devastation and the huge effort needed by the masses and their army to recover.

The Central Committee explained that the AFP's relentless suppression campaigns in the devastated areas have made it impossible to further extend the ceasefire in the Visayas. The

AFP operations have likewise been hampering the people from launching mass struggles and rehabilitation campaigns.

Thus, the Central Committee upholds the right of NPA forces in Eastern Visayas to cut short the ceasefire if needed, due to the continuing hurdles caused by the AFP's offensive operations to the revolutionary masses' rehabilitation efforts. AB

## AFP attacks in Samar

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) has been attacking without letup the units of the New People's Army (NPA) engaged in relief and rehabilitation work in Samar, Leyte, Negros and other areas devastated by supertyphoon Yolanda. According to the latest reports, an encounter erupted between a local NPA unit and the 87th IB in Barangay Sto. Niño, Motiong, Samar on December 17.

The CPP assailed the AFP for mocking the six-day ceasefire declared by the Communist Party of the Philippines on December 18. Instead of coming out with its own ceasefire declaration, the AFP has had the gall to challenge the NPA to declare a ceasefire of indefinite duration. The CPP stressed that this could only happen if the US-Aquino regime agrees to resume the stalled peace negotiations with the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) in order to discuss the basis, scope and other parameters of such a ceasefire.

The AFP's offensive military operations have gone on unabated in the calamity-stricken areas despite a unilateral ceasefire declared by the CPP to mobilize the entire NPA force and the masses for rehabilitation work. AB

# NPA seizes 22 firearms in Bukidnon

The New People's Army (NPA) seized 22 firearms in two separate tactical offensives launched in the first half of December against the armed forces of the reactionary government in Bukidnon.

## Raid on the Kibawe Police Station

NPA Red fighters under the Mt. Apo Subregional Command successfully raided the headquarters of the Philippine National Police (PNP) in Kibawe town early morning of December 12 and seized 13 firearms of various caliber. The raid took a mere 17 minutes.

The confiscated firearms consisted of seven M16s, three cal .45 pistols and three 9 mm pistols. The NPA likewise seized ammunition, uniforms and VHF radios.

The Red fighters attacked at exactly 4:50 a.m. The police resisted, but after a ten-minute firefight, two of them were killed and three were wounded.

An hour after the raid on the Kibawe Municipal Police Headquarters, the NPA ambushed reinforcements from the PNP Provincial Public Safety Company and the 8th IB by using command-detonated explosives.

The tactical offensives were conducted to seize more firearms needed to build more NPA combat platoons and punish the targeted military and police units. The 8th IB, in particular, was meted punishment for its forcible recruitment of peasants into the paramilitary CAFGU and for building Philippine Army detachments in parts of Bukidnon.

## Disarming operations, other gunbattles

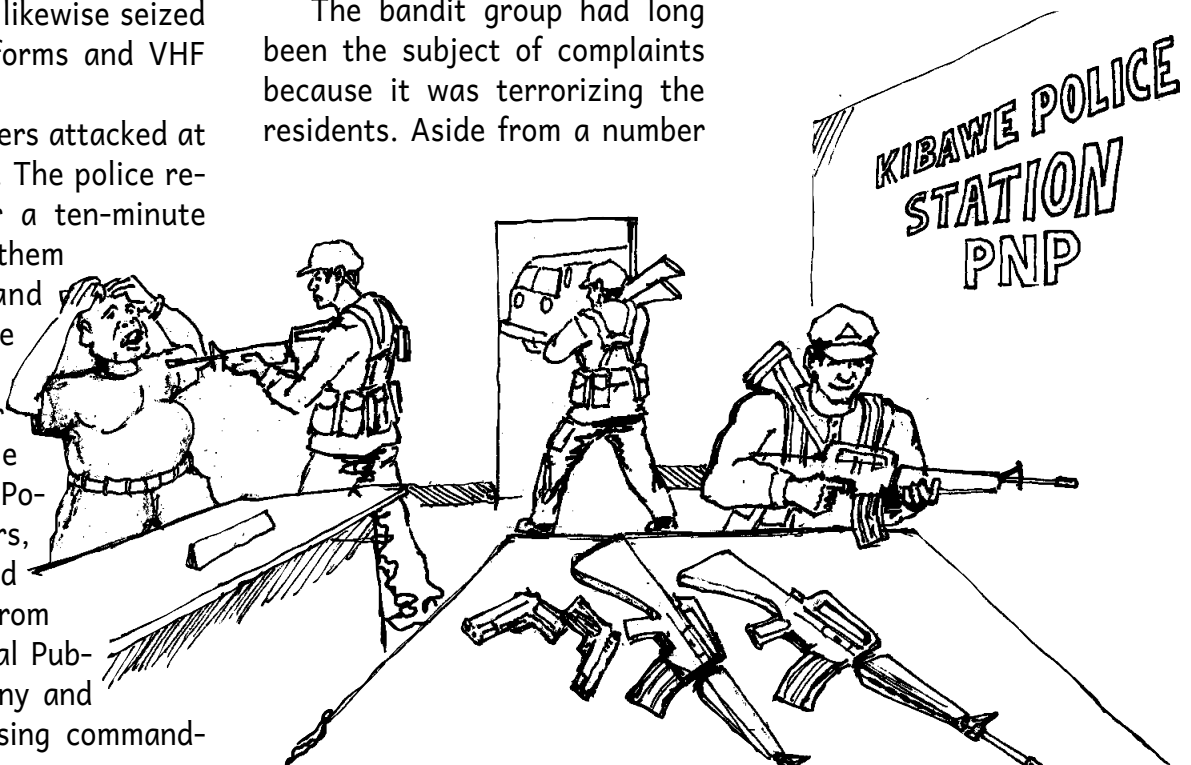
The NPA seized nine firearms in a disarming operation on December 1 against a bandit group in Sitio San Abel, Barangay Miarrayon, Talakag, Bukidnon. Red fighters under the NPA Mt. Kitanglad Subregional Command carted away two carbines, a Garand rifle, four shotguns, a cal .45 pistol and an improvised machine pistol.

The bandit group had long been the subject of complaints because it was terrorizing the residents. Aside from a number

of antipeople acts, its elements are also rabid counterrevolutionaries supported by Renato Sulatan, the despotic landgrabber and former vice mayor of Talakag.

In other developments, a soldier from the 58th IB was killed in an encounter with an NPA platoon under the Eastern Misamis Oriental-North Eastern Bukidnon Subregional Command in Hindangon, Gingoog City on November 26. The Red fighters did not suffer any casualties.

The NPA also sniped 8th IB elements conducting psywar operations under the Community Organizing for Peace and Development (COPD) on the morning of November 28 in Barangay Buntongon, Impasug-ong, Bukidnon. AB



## 18 soldiers killed in Panay

Eighteen soldiers were killed and at least seven were wounded when the New People's Army (NPA) successfully thwarted one after another the military operations of the Philippine Army 3rd ID in Panay in October.

The NPA ambushed on October 9 a big force under the 61st IB that was conducting pursuit operations against Red fighters

*"18 soldiers..."*, continued on page 5

# 10th ID suffers 34 casualties

**S**oldiers under the 10th ID of the Eastern Mindanao Command (Eastmincom) suffered 20 dead and 14 wounded after a series of tactical offensives launched by New People's Army (NPA) units under the Comval-Davao Gulf Subregional Command from November 18 to December 6.

To cover up their shame, no less than Eastmincom chief Lt. Gen. Ricardo Rainier Cruz concocted a story about how four Red fighters were allegedly killed in encounters in Maco town, Compostela Valley.

In fact, the enemy had launched brutal military operations that included strappings and bombings. They also killed a civilian and detained three others and disrupted the livelihoods of hundreds of residents in the towns of Maco and Maragusan.

On November 21, the 71st IB clashed with the 6th Pulang Bagani Company (Front 27 Operations Command) in North Davao, New Leyte, Maco town. As a result, three soldiers were killed and three others were wounded.

The military retaliated in desperation, victimizing unarmed and innocent civilians. At around 10:30 a.m., the military bombarded Sitios North Davao and Bunlang in New Leyte using 105 mm howitzers. By 4 p.m. that day, two MG-520 helicopters rained bombs on North Davao and the cluster of barangays in Masara Lines, Maco.

The bombings were conducted by the AFP on November 18, 21 and 23 and December 4 and 6.

The NPA used a command-detonated explosive on the soldiers while they were resting at their camp in Barangay Parasanun at around 11 p.m., killing five soldiers and wounding six others.

On November 23, at

around 8 a.m., Red fighters harassed the 71st IB Alpha Company camp, wounding three soldiers. Two hours after, two MG-520 helicopters bombed farms in Barangays Elizalde, Teresa and New Barili, all in Maco.

On November 25, the NPA detonated a bomb on a unit under the 66th IB in Sitio Camuso, Barangay Parasanun, killing four soldiers.

The NPA launched harassment operations on November 28 against the 71st IB in Sitio Biokadan, Barangay Teresa, killing a soldier.

Afterwards, the military forcibly evacuated the area's residents.

On December 4, at around 8 a.m., the 6th Pulang Bagani Company ambushed the 71st IB in Sitio Lim-aw, Barangay Teresa, killing seven troopers and wounding five others.

At past 9 a.m., the military rained artillery on Sitios Lim-aw and Gakub using 105 mm howitzers, disrupting the peasants' economic activities. AB

*"18 soldiers...", from page 5*

that had mounted an attack on the military two days before. Two soldiers were killed in the ambush at Sitio Malangsa, Barangay Abangay, Tapaz, Capiz at around 9 a.m.

Meanwhile, in southern Panay, three elements of the 82nd IB were killed and two others were wounded in an encounter with an NPA unit under the Napoleon Tumagtang Command in Sitio Tabiac, Barangay Dalije, Miag-ao, Iloilo morning of October 29. When the first shots rang out, the NPA immediately seized the initiative in the fighting and inflicted casualties on the enemy. The military merely covered the dead soldiers' bodies with tarp and only loaded

them aboard a helicopter the day after.

The enemy persisted in its pursuit operations against the Red fighters and clashed anew with the NPA on October 31. Seven troopers from Charlie Company were killed. The 3rd ID led by its new chief Brig. Gen. Aurelio Baladad put a lid on these successive defeats in the hands of the NPA. After a few days, a Huey helicopter and two MG-520 helicopter gunships bombed the mountainous areas along the Iloilo-Antique border.

Prior to this series of gunbattles, six soldiers of the 61st IB were killed and at least three were wounded in an ambush on the banks of the Pan-ay River in Barangay Nayawan, Tapaz on October 7. AB

From the typhoon's devastation

# The rise of people's government

On December 4, the residents of Saturnino, a farflung barrio in Compostela Valley gathered to celebrate their community's recovery from the devastation wrought by typhoon Pablo. With the Red fighters, the *Ang Bayan* staff and a number of regional Party cadres, Saturnino's residents hailed the victories achieved by their village with the help of the Party and the New People's Army this past year. The celebration was led by the local Party branch.

Saturnino was severely devastated by the fury of typhoon Pablo. All houses and structures in the community were levelled, including the schoolbuilding. The surrounding forest was denuded, and the residents' newly planted corn and vegetable crops were ruined. Nobody died in Saturnino but the residents knew that many were killed in the neighboring villages that form part of a vast mining area. The reactionary government concealed the real number of deaths in these barrios.

Because the water in the streams surrounding the village rose, it took a few days before help could reach the area. But as soon as the river was passable, the local

Party branch in Saturnino immediately sent a report to the nearest unit of the New People's Army to ask for help. Although the unit was far away, it immediately sent Red fighters to ascertain the residents' conditions, provide relief goods and medicines and help in

constructing temporary shelters.

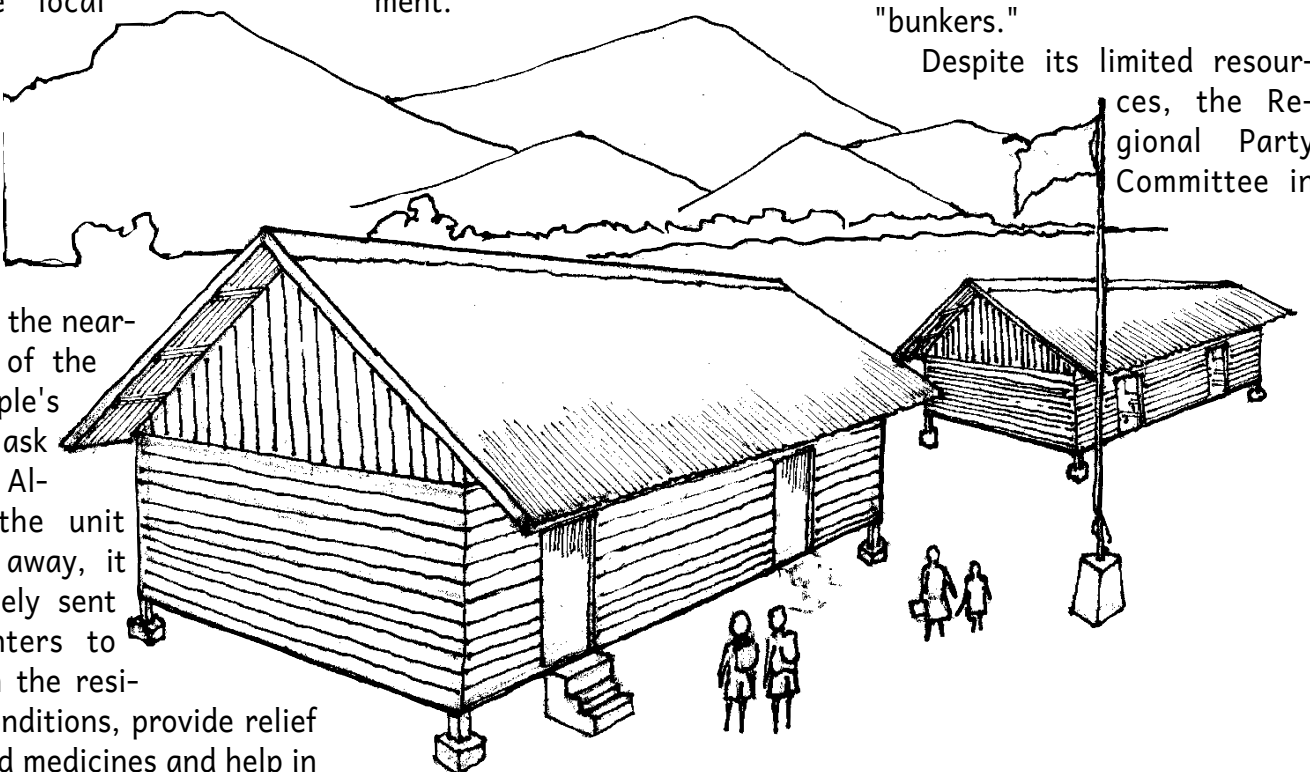
Simultaneously, the residents of Saturnino acted forthwith to take the reactionary state to account for its criminal responsibility in allowing the destruction of the forests due to widespread commercial logging and destructive large-scale mining. They organized protests with other typhoon victims to demand the immediate and full distribution of relief goods that the reactionary government had collected for them. But aside from three tents provided by a private relief agency, the residents of Saturnino did not receive any material assistance from the reactionary government.

## Mass campaign for production

In the succeeding months, it became the priority of the local Party branch to ensure that the residents would not do things on their own when it came to rebuilding their livelihoods. The branch conducted consultations in order to set the conduct of an immediate production campaign and the long-term rehabilitation of the community. They launched a mass campaign in order to address each family's daily needs.

The residents of Saturnino firmed up their resolve to remain in the village despite a campaign by the reactionary state to evict them from the area in the guise of "relocation." The residents knew that such relocation was merely a pretext to allow big mining and logging companies to freely make use of the land and forest in their community. They decided to collectively build their houses and eventually, their schoolbuilding. They built a water system to provide safe and potable water for their school and several clusters of houses. In preparation for another disaster, they also built temporary shelters or "bunkers."

Despite its limited resources, the Regional Party Committee in



Southern Mindanao helped in the community's initial rehabilitation by providing materials and food subsidies for the residents who worked full-time to build houses and public facilities.

The Saturnino residents count among their major victories the vast improvements in the productivity of both their individual and communal farms. They now have bigger harvests compared to the period before the storm hit. Despite the difficulty of opening a farm in an area that was strewn with huge trees that had been felled by the typhoon, the residents persevered in clearing more than 30 hectares of land in order to plant rice and corn.

They have since had two croppings of corn. Currently, they maintain a 15-hectare rice farm. The communal farm is managed by the barrio revolutionary committee.

The local MAKIBAKA chapter also successfully began a vegetable plot of more than a hectare. The plot is planted to Chinese cabbage, sweet potato, gourd and other vegetable crops. They have harvested more than their families could consume. Part of the harvest is purposely allotted to the NPA unit in the area. The excess produce is sold in neighboring villages. Meanwhile, the communal farm maintained by the local Kabataang Makabayan chapter was positioned near the newly built schoolbuilding. Their harvest mainly addresses the needs of the community's elementary school. The school itself has its own communal farm, fishpond and vegetable garden. At the same time, the residents have also improved their individual farms from which they source most of their food and cash crops.

In response to the Party's general call for reforestation, Saturnino residents, in partnership with the NPA, have begun to systematically plant endemic trees in the forests surrounding their communities. They have also responded to the call to plant fruit trees at the foot of mountains and around their communal farms and community. They have already been able to grow durian, marang and magosteen seedlings, among others.

Not the least of the Saturnino residents' achievements is the construction of their own school. A formal elementary school providing Grade 1 to Grade 6 education is now operational, with three classrooms and four teachers. The residents appreciated the program for a genuinely free, pro-people, scientific and patriotic education being advanced by the schools run by the revolutionary movement.

### **Building Red power**

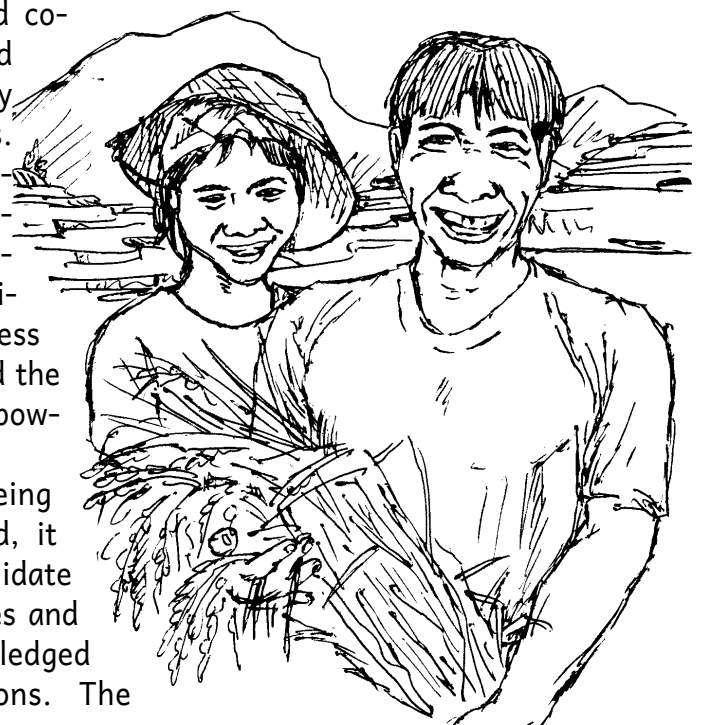
It had long been a resolution of the local CPP branch to raise the level of Party consolidation and the organizational level of the people in the barrio. The process has been accelerated due to the residents' urgent need to unite and cooperate to rebuild their community and livelihoods. The residents responded with unprecedented enthusiasm, determination and firmness to the call to build the organ of political power in their area.

Despite being heavily militarized, it was easy to consolidate the Party branches and members of fullfledged mass organizations. The

technical aspects of preparing the requisites for building the barrio revolutionary committee such as conducting studies, drafting a program and holding an election were quickly fulfilled. Despite enemy military operations, the conference was formally launched and the barrio revolutionary committee built. The latter has taken charge of the rehabilitation program initiated by the Party and the NPA.

The residents of Saturnino are energetically implementing the collective farming program in order to address the needs of every family. This is a foundation for building a socialist economy.

The people's collective strength, their embrace of agrarian revolution and armed struggle and their conscious effort to ensure that their village remains safe from unreliable elements all serve as the firm pillars in building the barrio revolutionary committee. To make sure that NPA units as well as local Party leaders and officers of the barrio revolutionary committee could operate safely in the area, rules on security are strictly observed and enemy movements closely monitored. **AB**



# Advanced course on combat medicine launched

Leading medical officers of the New People's Army in Mindanao took the Advanced Health Training last October. The training was held in the mountainous areas of the Bukidnon-Davao Sub-regional Command. It was attended by 32 cadres from five regions as well as officers and doctors of the NPA National Operations Command N-5 and the CPP National Health Bureau.

The Advanced Health Training's main content was "advanced trauma management" or the treatment of severe wounds sustained during combat. The course includes medical procedures ranging from "basic life support" to operating on patients with gunshot wounds to the chest and abdomen, bone fractures and other serious medical conditions. A review of anatomy and other basic medical processes became an integral part of the course practicum.

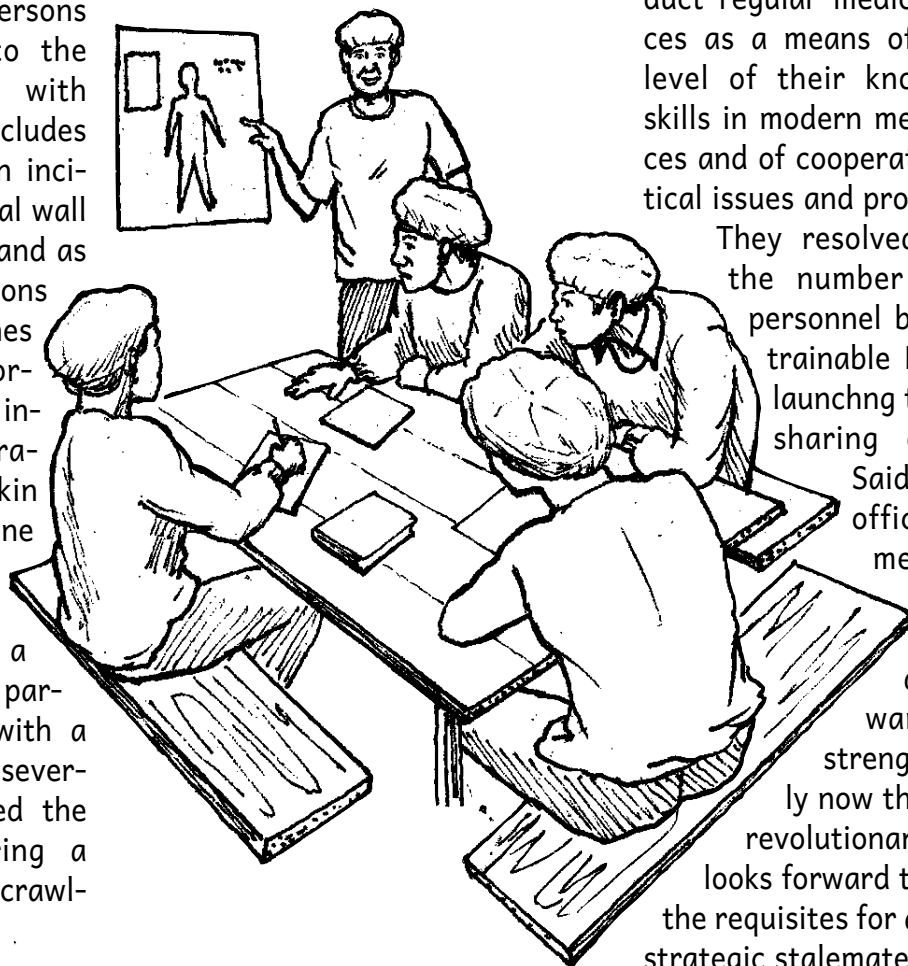
The course on managing trauma due to gunshot wounds included cricothyrotomy, an operation conducted on persons with gunshot wounds to the chest whose lungs fill with blood. The course also includes laparotomy, or making an incision through the abdominal wall to stop internal bleeding and as first aid for other operations on the abdomen, intestines and adjacent internal organs. The course likewise includes orthopedic operations, amputations, skin traction, bone pinning, bone cementing and/or metal implantation.

In partnership with a squad of Red fighters, the participants played a skit with a raid as scenario and with several wounded. They studied the correct maneuvers during a combat situation, such as crawling into the "killing zone"

to retrieve the "wounded" and bringing them to the first and second medical stations.

At the first station, medics apply first aid to the "patients." At the second station, the patients are carefully cleaned and bandaged to stop any bleeding. The wounded are given intravenous infusions and loaded on stretchers for immediate transfer to the third station, which serves as the field hospital where the necessary pieces of equipment are positioned and operations are conducted.

The training was sponsored by the NPA Regional Command and the Party Subregional Com-



mittee. With the help of local forces, the facilities necessary to conduct the training effectively were built—a schoolbuilding for lectures, a kitchen, latrines and huts, among others. Security at the camp was ensured by Red fighters in partnership with the people's militia in the villages adjacent to the area.

The entire course pushed through without a hitch. There was a fruitful exchange of experiences among the participants who included highly experienced revolutionary medics. It was not difficult for them to grasp the lessons and procedures. Another major factor in the training's success was the region's assiduous preparations, the widespread support from the people's army and the masses and the untiring efforts of the participants and their supporters.

After the training, the medical cadres launched the Mindanao Medical Conference where they reaffirmed the need to conduct regular medical conferences as a means of raising the level of their knowledge and skills in modern medical advances and of cooperation on practical issues and problems.

They resolved to expand the number of medical personnel by identifying trainable Red fighters, launching trainings and sharing experiences. Said the medical officers, the medics' abilities must keep pace as people's war gains strength, especially now that the entire revolutionary movement looks forward to completing the requisites for achieving the strategic stalemate. **AB**



## RMS: Doctors in the people's army

**K**a Lalee has been a medic for more than three decades. She is a member of the Regional Medical Staff (RMS) of the Regional Operations Command (ROC) of the New People's Army in Southern Mindanao. In October, she finished taking the Advanced Health Training where her skills as a fighter-doctor of the people were further honed.

"Currently, the RMS has 16 medics in Southern Mindanao," said Ka Lalee. The RMS is a military formation that addresses the needs of vertical NPA units in the region. The RMS plans to expand towards being a full-fledged platoon by 2014.

"The medics within the RMS are of various levels," explained Ka Lalee. "There are cadres, practitioners and trainees." Medical cadres have finished taking the advanced

courses, are able to perform combat surgery, manage big teams of medics and give trainings.

Practitioners have finished taking the Intermediate Health Training and are able to perform minor operations. They are medics who can perform tooth extractions, circumcisions and minor surgery such as cyst removal. The cadres and practitioners have the ability to make diagnoses and write prescrip-

tions. The trainees are at the most basic level, and have just begun their training both in the formal courses and in practical tasks. They implement basic regulations on sanitation and nutrition and treat common ailments.

"Although the RMS' main task is to see to the health of the people's army, it likewise ensures the health of the masses by forming Barrio Medical Groups (BMG) and conducting trainings in the villages," said Ka Lalee. With the BMG medics, the RMS conducts people's clinics in the barrios within its area of operations as part of its task of providing services to the guerrilla bases being established by the NPA. **AB**

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## RMS conducts people's clinic

**O**n November 27, the Regional Medical Staff conducted a people's clinic in partnership with the Davao-Bukidnon Subregional Command medical staff and members of the Barrio Medical Group in a village along the Davao-Bukidnon border. The villagers had long been awaiting the NPA's people's clinic, especially since their barrio is far from the town center and has never had access to the reactionary government's medical services. In fact, some of those who came had their very first medical checkup.

The NPA medics continuously saw patients from 7 a.m. to 12 noon. At one point, there were more than a hundred people inside and around the tent designated as the clinic for the day. To make the flow of consultations and operations go smoothly, the medics posted "stations" within the clinic. They assigned an area for checkups, tooth extractions and an operating table and one corner served as a pharmacy. The medical cadres and practitioners divided tasks

and schedules among themselves while the trainees served as assistants.

The residents who came to the people's clinic were a combination of Lumad and settlers (locally called "Bisaya"). There were medics who served as interpreters for Lumad who found it difficult to explain their symptoms in Bisaya. The masses enthusiastically responded even if the NPA had only resumed operating in the area for just a few months. The Red fighters are still in the process of building fullfledged mass organizations in the barrio.

According to Ka Kurt, one of the medics, up to 63 patients were provided medical services on the morning the NPA "clinic" was open. Twenty-nine of them had checkups for various illnesses, 15 were boys who underwent circumcision and 19 had tooth extractions. Most of the ailments were respiratory in nature, as well as other illnesses common among the peasantry. Medicines for fever, cough and neuralgia as well as antibiotics were distributed.

The people's clinic also served as a means to recruit and train new members of the Barrio Medical Group. **AB**



# 71st IB indicted for killing of 8-year old Roque Antivo

The People's Democratic Government in Compostela Valley indicted officers and men of the 71st IB for the murder of Roque Antivo and the frustrated murder of Jeffrey Hernan and Earl Jhun Antivo on April 3, 2013 in Barangay Anitapan, Mabini.

The indictment was issued after a Special Investigative Body found "sufficient basis to constitute a people's court to try" Lt. Col. Jerry T. Borja of the 71st IB, Col. Angelito de Leon of the 1001st Brigade, Maj. Jake Obligado and GPH Prosecutor Graciano Arafol, Jr. for "planning, aiding, abetting and conspiring in the commission of war crimes, crimes against humanity and serious violations of human rights and International Humanitarian Law."

Also among the indictees are Pres. Benigno Aquino III of the GPH, Sec. Voltaire Gazmin of the Department of National Defense, AFP Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Emmanuel Bautista and Eastern Mindanao Command chief Gen. Ricardo Ranier Cruz for designing and carrying out Oplan Bayani-

han which targets civilians like Roque.

The investigation documented how soldiers of the 71st IB opened fire on Roque Antivo, an 8-year old boy and his elder brother Earl Jhun and uncle Jeffry Hernan while they were on the way home from their farm. Roque died on the spot, while his uncle was wounded. Roque's brother, on the other hand, suffered severe psychological trauma.

The investigation's results belied the military's claims that Roque was killed and Hernan wounded after being caught in the crossfire between clashing units of the AFP and NPA. The investigation further determined that Front 2 Platoon, the nearest NPA unit then, was in an area that was two hours' walk away. The investigation also cited the collusion among the police, the fiscal and the AFP to cover up their crime.

The indictment likewise singled out Major Obligado for attempting to bribe the Antivo family with money and a scholarship to avoid being held culpable for the crime. AB

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## CPP condemns life sentence for NDFP consultant

The Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) condemned the Aquino regime and the Muntinlupa City Regional Trial Court for convicting National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) consultant Eduardo Sarmiento and sentencing him to life imprisonment. Judge Myra Bayot Quimbo of Muntinlupa RTC Branch 203 based her December 11 decision on the planted evidence in the trumped-up case of illegal possession of firearms and explosives.

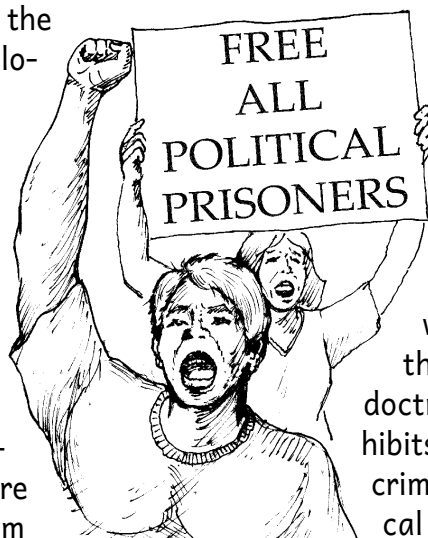
Sarmiento, 62, is an NDFP peace consultant for Eastern Visayas. He was in Metro Manila for a consultation on the peace negotiations when he was arrested by military agents in Alabang, Muntinlupa City on February 24, 2009.

Sarmiento's conviction is a grave violation of the Joint

Agreement on Safety and Immunity Guarantees (JASIG). The JASIG guarantees NDFP and GPH personnel involved in the peace negotiations immunity from prosecution. Both parties are likewise prohibited from

conducting surveillance, harassment, searches, arrests, detention, prosecution and interrogation or any similar punitive measures against the personnel of either party.

With Sarmiento's conviction, the GPH also violated the Comprehensive Agreement on Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law (CARHRIHL) which upholds the Hernandez doctrine that prohibits the state from criminalizing political offenses.



# AFP kills ComVal Lumad leader

Troops of the 71st IB killed Lumad leader Pedro Tinga in Barangay Malamodao, Maco, Compostela Valley. Tinga, 57, was a member of the Mansaka tribal council in his village. He was killed in his farm at around 9 a.m. of December 6.

To cover up their crime, the Eastern Mindanao Command of the Philippine Army claimed in an official statement that Tinga was one of four members of the New People's Army (NPA) killed in two encounters between the 71st IB and the NPA in Malamodao on December 4 and 6.

Residents of the village, however, said that no encounter occurred in their barrio.

**Negros Oriental.** The military has been harassing and accusing farmer-residents of Barangay Avocado, Sta. Catalina of being NPA supporters. The AFP has also been forcing them to produce Jimlan dela Cruz, an alleged NPA leader. Soldiers of the 79th IB have been conducting combat operations, going from house to house and building detachments in the village's mountainous areas.

**Zamboanga del Sur.** The Zamboanga City Police arrested members of the Commission on Human Rights-Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (CHR-ARMM) and three of their staff on December 13. They were arrested after visiting some 200 members of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) detained at the San Ramon Penal Colony in Zamboanga del Sur to ascertain whether the detainees' rights were being respected. The detainees were arrested on the suspicion that they were involved in the attack on Zamboanga City in September.

The CHR members were brought to the Ayala Police Station in Zamboanga City for in-

vestigation. The digital pictures they took with their Ipads of the interior of the San Ramon Penal Colony were deleted. The victims were also threatened that something bad would happen to them should they return to the penal colony.

Those arrested were Special Investigator II Al-Ghosaibi M. Jupli, Special Investigator I Umma Omar Edding, Nasser Halapto (administrative aide), Madzsalman Cifria (data enumerator) and Hermie Omar (driver).

**Abra-Mountain Province border.** Troops of the 41st and 50th IB trained their guns on 13 civilians and subjected them to interrogation on November 13. Two of the victims were minors who

were merely gathering firewood in the forest when they were chanced upon by military and police forces conducting operations in Lesnadan, Bangaan, Sagada, Mountain Province. Nine other civilians, including two minors and a foreigner had also been arrested earlier by the troopers. The minors were detained only because they had two cellphones and an extra battery each.

On November 16, two residents of Bangaan who were on the way home were blocked and detained by other 50th IB troops and forced to serve as guides and human shields. One of them was wounded when the soldiers later figured in an encounter with the NPA.

Armed troops, two howitzers and other weapons have also been positioned in tourist and production areas in Sagada like Lake Danumu and Langsayan-Pilaw Ridge. AB



## Successive media killings

Malacañang's indifference to the successive killings of media people in the country in a span of two weeks has earned widespread condemnation.

The following media people have been killed in the past few weeks: Joas Dignos, who was gunned down in Valencia, Bukidnon on November 29; Michael Milo, killed in Tandag City, Surigao del Sur on December 6; and Rogelio Butalid, shot dead in Tagum City, Davao del Norte on December 11.

In the face of these killings, Aquino's officials have asserted that "without the Maguindanao Massacre, media killings in the Philippines are not so serious." In fact, up to 161 journalists have been killed for work-related reasons since 1986. In just over three years under the Aquino regime, up to 21 media people have been killed, the worst record since 1986. AB

## Human rights day commemorated

Progressive groups and human rights advocates rallied to commemorate the 65th anniversary of International Human Rights Day on December 10. In Manila, a protest was held in Mendiola where Benigno Aquino III dubbed "Pnoy Destroyer" was burned in effigy. Separate protest actions were held in the cities of Davao, Baguio and Ligao, Albay.

Earlier, KARAPATAN-Southern Tagalog trooped to Aquino's house on Times St., Quezon City. According to KARAPATAN, there have been 152 cases of political killings, 168 frustrated killings, 18 abductions and 358 illegal arrests under the current regime. This translates to one killing a week.

Most of the victims are farmers, national minorities and urban poor. The most striking cases this year were the murders of Cristina Jose, a Bayan Muna member slain in Davao Oriental in March; the abduction in September of labor leader Benjamin Villeno in Cavite; and the arrest of peasant leader Aries Sarmiento in July.

According to the Samahan ng mga Ex-Detainees Laban sa Detensyon at Aresto (SELDA), the number of political detainees in the country has been growing. There are now up to 449 detainees, many of them with serious health problems. Many of them need medical attention and should be released.

## Protests meet impending power rate hikes

Progressive groups launched protest actions to oppose plans to hike power rates this month until March next year. This is the biggest power rate hike in history. The Anakpawis party rallied in front of the Meralco office on December 6 while GABRIELA demonstrated at the office of the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) on December 9.

The protest actions were launched after the Department of Energy and Meralco announced a ₱4.15 per kilowatt-hour hike. The power rate increase will be spread out over the next three months: ₱2.41/kwh this month, ₱1.21/kwh in February and ₱0.53/kwh in March. In other areas like Pangasinan, electricity charges will rise by ₱5.00/kwh.

Meralco bills are expected to register hikes of up to ₱800 this December for ordinary families consuming about 200 kilowatt-hours per month.

The CPP assailed the Aquino regime not only for paving the way for the Meralco power hike, but for its tax windfall under the expanded value-added tax system.

The protesters slammed the virtually simultaneous shutdowns of the Malampaya plant and several other power producers which allegedly compelled Meralco to purchase more expensive power and likewise sell this at a higher price.

The MAKABAYAN bloc at the Lower House of Congress announced that it would block

the power rate hike even before it takes effect by petitioning the Supreme Court to issue a Temporary Restraining Order.

Meanwhile, aside from the hike in power rates, fares at the Light Rail Transit (LRT) and Metropolitan Rail Transit (MRT) are set to be hiked by ₱1.00 per kilometer, raising MRT fares from ₱15 to ₱28 and LRT fares from ₱20 to ₱30.

Progressive groups also protested the public consultation conducted by the MRT and LRT Authority on December 12. According to the Riles Laan sa Sambayanan Network, the people are bound to suffer more in the new year because the fare hikes come on top of the power rate hike. They charged that the consultation was bogus because the MRT and LRT representatives could not answer questions regarding the whereabouts of the billions of pesos being raked in by the company.

The progressive groups urged the people to join them in waging continuing protests and resisting power and train fare hikes. **AB**