



ANG

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

# Bayan

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Editorial

## Aim to make big strides in the coming year

**T**he Party has achieved significant and important victories in 2015. It has led the solid advance and expansion of the revolutionary movement in the entire country and steadfastly fought the enemy's relentless attacks.

At the same time, the Party is confronting various problems and factors which prevent it from achieving bigger and more rapid advances. We should identify, delve into and resolve these issues immediately.

We should consolidate our gains and strive for more victories. We must unite the entire Party and all revolutionary forces on our current tasks so we can march forward in unison and achieve greater advances this year.

For five years, we have frustrated the aims of the US-Aquino regime's anti-people Oplan Bayanihan to defeat the armed revolutionary movement and render it inconsequential.

In the field of armed struggle, the most brilliant victories were achieved in Mindanao. The AFP's two-year large-scale and concentrated offensives against guerrilla fronts in the island has failed miserably. The NPA here launched 500 tactical offensives, 25% more than the previous year and twice compared to 2010.

The consistent advance of the armed struggle Luzon and Visayas is also highly commendable. Panay recorded a significant increase both in number and in size of tactical

offensives against a relatively large deployment of AFP forces. In Eastern Visayas, tactical offensives have been successively launched in different towns of Samar. Tactical offensives continue to be launched in Negros.

There were coordinated tactical offensives in Bicol. Tactical offensives were also launched in Kalinga, Isabela and other provinces in Ilocos-Cordillera and Cagayan Valley. Resonant tactical offensives were also carried out in Rizal, Batangas, Mindoro, Quezon and Laguna in Southern Tagalog.

In the previous year, victories were achieved in agrarian revolution and in setting up, expanding and consolidating the mass base. Millions of

peasants and minority peoples throughout the country have benefited from land reform's minimum and maximum program.

Across the country, vigorous and widespread coordinated protests of the peasant masses have been carried out at the town and district levels. Struggles against landgrabbing by mining, agribusiness and real estate companies are extensive.

Mass struggles are being launched in the countryside against the reactionary state's criminal negligence in the face of devastating calamities and destruction brought about by climate change. Anti-fascist struggle against militarization and widespread human rights abuses gained prominence.

During the past year, there were initial victories in the workers' movement in



the struggle against contractualization. The masses of workers were united in the call to reinstate and increase the national minimum wage. Youth and students mobilized against tuition fee increases, education budget cuts and the K+12 program. The struggle for migrant welfare was notable. There were significant rallies against APEC and its imposition of neoliberal policies. There were also noteworthy demonstrations to assert sovereignty against the US and China's quest for control over the South China Sea.

This year, we should exert all-out efforts to carry out our tasks to propel the revolutionary movement forward. We should review the Central Committee's statement last December 26 for the whole range of our urgent tasks.

First, we should expand and consolidate the Party membership. We should plan in detail and carry out massive recruitment of Party members. In 2015, Party expansion reached 33%. This year, we should strive to increase this number. Re-

cruit all advance mass activists borne out of the democratic mass struggles. Give particular attention to the recruitment of workers and student youth.

Consolidate the Party further. Persevere in carrying out the three-level study course. Plan how to ensure that 100% of new recruits finish the basic course at the shortest time. Strengthen the machinery for instruction. Propagate study references such as books, comics, videos and songs and use various study equipment such as computers, projectors, ebook readers and others.

Pay attention to strengthening local Party organs and committees (barrios, factories, schools and streets) at the section, subsection and branch levels and give full play to their leadership at their respective levels and areas. Develop local cadres' capabilities to stand on their feet and lead without relying on army units or organizers.

Develop and train thousands of young cadres to be deployed to

various important lines of work in building the Party, people's army and in advancing the armed struggle, and in expanding and strengthening the united front.

Consolidate further the Party and all revolutionary forces' political unity in the entire country. Each Party branch should hold fortnightly meetings to discuss issues of *Ang Bayan* to ensure that all cadres are up to date with the Party's analyses on national issues and the Party's central calls. Ensure that sufficient copies of our newspaper are printed.


Carry out the necessary summings-up of experiences in various fields of work and various levels of Party leadership. Identify the factors hindering the qualitative advance of our tasks. Conduct criticism and self-criticism and rectify weaknesses and errors.

In the field of armed struggle, we must pinpoint the reasons why the people's army could not sustain its primary task of launching tactical offensives that it can win such as raids and ambushes.

The NPA in Mindanao should continue to intensify guerrilla warfare and fight the enemy's all-out war of suppression. Strive to surpass its 500 tactical offensives.

The NPA must raise its capabilities nationwide. Further improve war administration at the sub-regional, regional and interregional up to the national levels. People's war must be intensified in Luzon and Visayas. Decisively resolve problems of NPA commands and units in some regions which have yet to achieve breakthroughs in sustained tactical offensives and advancing the armed struggle.

In the urban mass movement, raise the dynamism of the mass organizations of workers, youth and students, urban poor, women, professionals and other oppressed sectors. Energize and invigorate them through regular political discussions, formal study sessions, mass propaganda and mass re-

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<p style="text-align: center;">Ang Bayan is published fortnightly by the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Philippines</p>	

cruitment, cultural activities (such as poetry and song writing, film and video showings with patriotic content and cultural presentations), and through other beneficial programs. Identify the factors on how to enliven the democratic mass movement so that it can arouse and mobilize people in their thousands in demonstrations that will rock the ruling system.

Concerned Party organs must study how to deploy to the countryside large numbers of cadres and activists tempered by urban mass struggles. The realization of this task is one of the critical factors for the people's war to advance to the next level.

Uphold the style of work that is firmly linked to the masses. Study the objective and subjective conditions of the masses in order to identify the correct methods of reaching and arousing them that does not tail behind nor too far advanced beyond the people's political activities.

Conducting timely social investigations is a key task in coming up with the correct line, calls and tactics in arousing, organizing and mobilizing the masses in various forms of struggle.

Interbarrio and municipal-level social investigations should be conducted in line with launching mass struggles and actions, expansion, consolidating and raising the level of mass organizations and organs of political power.

Investigations should also be carried out among the ranks of the toiling masses and petty bourgeoisie in

urban areas. A plan of action should be formulated to overcome neoliberal attacks on the workers' movement and to identify effective methods of forming unions, associations and other forms of organizing and mobilizing the workers, and for the Party to strike deep roots among their ranks.

Investigation is also the key in identifying the methods on how to take root in the ranks of youth and students, to popularize among them and persuade them to champion revolutionary philosophies, encourage them to challenge dominant theories and ideas, and embody the spirit of serving the people and struggle for radical social change.

This year, the US-Aquino regime and its anti-people Oplan Bayanihan are set to end. The illusion of the Philippines' developing economy that US imperialism conjured under Aquino's sham slogan of "tuwid na daan" has already crumbled.

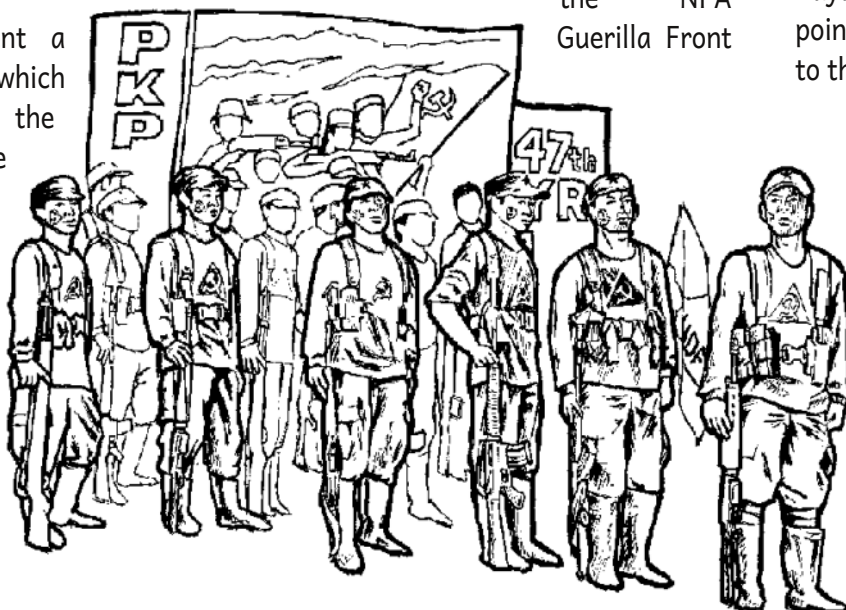
The world capitalist system is boiling over and threatening to come to a head. The Filipino people's rage is intensifying in the face of escalating oppression and exploitation. They are left with no choice but to tread the road of revolutionary struggle. This remains as their sole weapon against the oppressive and exploitative neoliberal policies which have brought about widespread unemployment, low wages, widespread landlessness and landgrabbing and other hardships, and to advance their struggle for national and social liberation. **AB**

## Thousands gather in Agusan to celebrate the Party's 47th year

Up to 5,000 people gathered to celebrate the CPP's 47th anniversary in Hinimbangan, Kitcharao, Agusan del Norte last December 26, 2015. The celebration featured a parade of company-sized Red fighters, speeches and cultural presentations.

Ka Oris, National Democratic Front-Mindanao spokesperson, sent a video message which was shown in the gathering. The crowd feasted on *lechon* (roasted pig) and ice cream sent by allies in dozens of "skylabs" (motorcycles used as transports in rugged mountain roads).

According to the spokesperson of the NPA Guerilla Front



16 which hosted the celebrations, the fact that a single guerrilla front can launch a big celebration despite AFP attacks and threats from paramilitary groups proves Oplan Bayanihan's failure. AFP checkpoints sprouted along roads leading to the venue.

### AFP violates own ceasefire

The celebrations were held amidst AFP violations of its self-declared ceasefire from December 23 to January 3. The enemy launched operations in Surigao, Bukidnon and Davao. In Surigao del Sur, the AFP used the pretext of going after the paramilitary

group Magahat-Bagani to move into NPA areas. In truth, according to Ka Oris, paramilitary elements are inside AFP camps.

In the last two weeks of December, the AFP launched nonstop operations in Sitio Hanayan, Barangay Diatagon, Lianga and other towns in Surigao del Sur. They launched artillery and air bombardments. Prior to this, they burned residential homes in Km. 16, also in Diatagon.

### Threats against the media

With the help of the AFP, the paramilitary continued to sow terror. Days before the anniversary, Magahat-Bagani's Bobby Tejero threatened to ambush journalists and local government officials who planned to join in, and report about, the celebrations. Tejero's text message was sent to journalists in major newspapers and networks and was also the subject of a video message uploaded by the state agency Philippine Information Agency (PIA)-Caraga.

Mindanao journalists, however, refused to be cowed and strongly condemned the threatening messages. According to the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines, they took the threats seriously because they know that these are backed by the military.

Ka Oris identified Col. Isidro Purisima, commander to the 402nd Bde which operates in the area, as behind the threats. Together with the Magahat-Bagani, he collaborated with the PIA-CARAGA and the anti-communist group ANAD to terrorize those who planned to participate in the celebrations. Since mid-2015 when Purisima took over the brigade, paramilitary attacks on Lumad and peasant communities have increased and become more brutal, Ka Oris said. AB

## Revolutionary movement grows stronger in Mindanao

The revolution in Mindanao has grown stronger despite being the focus of relentless and brutal attacks under the US-Aquino regime's Oplan Bayanihan in line with protecting imperialist and the local ruling classes' economic interests and defeating the revolutionary movement in the island.

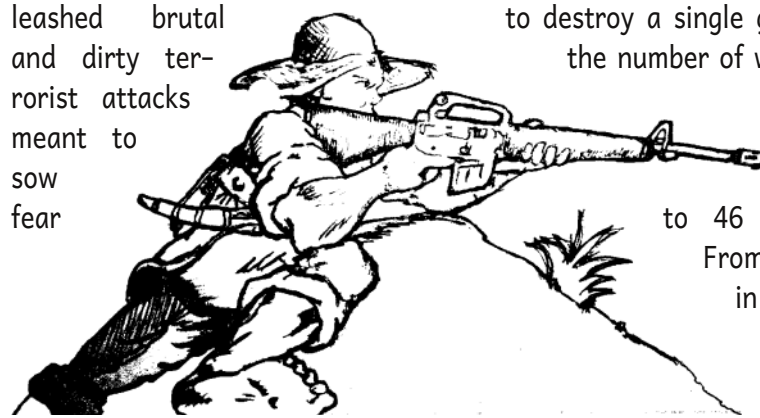
Thus stated Ka Oris, National Democratic Front-Mindanao spokesperson, in his statement on the Communist Party of the Philippines' 47th anniversary on December 26, 2015. He conveyed his message through video to people who joined in the celebrations in Hinimbangan, Kitcharao, Agusan del Norte during that day. *(Read related story on page 3.)*

According to Ka Oris, the revolutionary movement remains undefeated despite the reactionary state deploying numerous battalions on the island. At present, 60% of the 60 AFP battalions in Mindanao are focused against the New People's Army (NPA). This does not include police, CAFGU and paramilitary forces. These have unleashed brutal and dirty terrorist attacks meant to sow fear

among the people and suppress their struggles. This terrorism has already led to the forced evacuation of thousands of people.

In the midst of intensified military operations, the Party has consolidated its ideological foundation. It has launched theoretical studies, combined with practical studies from revolutionary experiences from the island's five regions. Party members grew by the thousands from the ranks of struggling people in barrios, communities, factories, schools and mass organizations. Regional committees, local Party branches among the people and within the NPA have all gained strength.

The armed struggle continues to advance. Oplan Bayanihan failed to destroy a single guerrilla front, the number of which, instead, has increased from 40 in 2010 to 46 in 2015. From 1,850 barrios in 2010, the Red Army now covers



### NPA frees POW in Agusan del Norte

THE NEW People's Army released Corporal Adriano Bingil last December 31 in Barangay Durian, Las Nieves, Agusan del Norte after 104 days of captivity. He was received by Davao City Mayor Rodrigo Duterte, Iglesia Filipina Independiente bishop and Philippine Ecumenical Peace Platform convenor Bishop Felixberto Calang and San Luis, Agusan del Sur Mayor Ronaldo Corvera.

Bingil was captured last September 19 in Barangay Mahagsay, San Luis in Agusan del Sur by Red fighters from the NPA Front 88.

According to Ricardo Manili of NPA Front 4-A, the National Democratic Front ordered Bingil's release as a goodwill measure to continue the aborted peace talks. Bingil was a member of the 4th ID's 28th IB which was then carrying out operations in Barangay Mahagsay. AB

2,500. Numerous organs of political power at the barrio level, and some at the town level, have been created. More than 200,000 people have now directly joined mass organizations.

Struggles for land reform now cover a wider area. The mass movement is firmly linked to the struggle against imperialist plunder of the country's natural resources. It is also tightly linked to the struggle to protect the environment. Under Aquino's term, strong mass movements surged against large mines in CARAGA, A. Brown plantation in Compostela Valley, Xstrata in SOKSARGEN, TVI in Zamboanga Sur and others.

NPA formations have increased. The number of tactical offensives grew from 250 at the start of Aquino's term to more than 500 in 2015. This is the highest ever during the Aquino's term, Ka Oris said. Among the NPA's most striking victories is the raid on Mayor Brilliantes' armory where Red fighters confiscated 74 firearms. These also include the successful raids on police stations in Tigbao, Zamboanga del Sur, in Don Victoriano, Misa-

mis Oriental and in Alegria, Surigao del Norte. NPA units confiscated weapons and dealt blows on the enemy with these offensives. For the whole year, the reactionary armed forces suffered battalion-sized casualties, while the NPA suffered minimal damage. Under Aquino, the NPA captured 61 forces who have been declared as prisoners-of-war and treated according to the international laws of war.

Among the latest NPA offensives include the series of ambushes carried out by Red fighters in Paquibato District on December 14 and in Compostela Valley on December 13. Enemy casualties reached up to 21 troopers, including an officer.

Also in 2015, anti-fascist struggles took off and surged, resounding not only within the island but throughout the nation and beyond. The Manilakbayan of Lumads and the people of Mindanao against militarization and intensified state terrorism garnered support within and outside the country. Moro struggles persisted despite the regime's efforts to silence their people. **AB**

## Celebrations in Southern Tagalog, Panay and Negros

**O**rgans of the Communist Party of the Philippines, together with revolutionary people in Southern Tagalog, Panay, and Negros, celebrated the 47th anniversary of its reestablishment last December 26, 2015.

In Southern Tagalog, hundreds attended gatherings in Batangas, Rizal, Laguna and Quezon where cultural presentations were performed by revolutionaries from various sectors, as well as by Pulang Bandila, the cultural group composed of NPA fighters. A creative review of important lessons from great teachers and leaders of the revolutionary movement of different countries was staged. At the program, the Party's message and call for the intensification of revolutionary struggle in the face of global and national crises were discussed. Participants, especially the workers and youth, were challenged to answer the call to go to the countryside and join the NPA. Similar celebrations were likewise held in Mindoro and Palawan.

Meanwhile, the NPA-Mindoro (Lucio de Guzman Command) re-

futed the Memorandum of Understanding between the Oriental Mindoro local government and the 2nd ID declaring the island as "conflict manageable and ready for development" or CMFRD. This declaration tries to make it appear that the armed movement in the island is no longer a threat in order to attract more foreign companies to invest in mining in the island. This conceals the truth that the revolutionary movement is continuously gaining strength in the area. It was only last

October 25, when NPA troops attacked a peace and development team in San Jose, Occidental Mindoro, killing its commander. Last October 31, seven soldiers were killed in NPA harassment operations in Panaytayan, Mansalay, Occidental Mindoro.

In Panay, the regional party organization celebrated its leadership in the military field where NPA forces were able to launch sustained tactical offensives for the whole year, overshooting the national target for the frequency of offensives per unit.

Most significant was the series of tactical offensives in December 12-13 from the North-eastern Yating Mountains, in Capiz to the southern Madyaas Range in Iloilo. In the dawn offensive on December 13, eight soldiers were killed



when a two-truck convoy of the 82nd IB was ambushed at Barangay Tiolas, San Joaquin, Iloilo while passing through the Iloilo-Antique national highway.

According to Julian Paisano, spokesperson of PKP-Panay, "The military actions in 2015 demonstrated the extent, positioning along the vast mountain ranges and foothills of Western and Northeastern Panay, and the depth of the mass base of the revolutionary movement in Panay."

Paisano also made clear that despite the sustained military and police attacks in both countryside and cities, specially during the Balikatan military exercises last April and APEC meeting last June and September, the people of Panay continued to respond to the Party's call for "sustained, strengthened and heightened island-wide mass struggles to overthrow the US-Aquino regime in 2015." Tens of thousands of Panayanons launched regional and local struggles at the rate of almost weekly mass actions in major cities and towns.

Meanwhile, in the adjacent island of Negros, the NPA belied the military's declaration that the people's war in Negros has been defeated.

"The NPA and other revolutionary forces in Negros Island congratulate the CPP for gaining revolutionary victories ...for over four decades of leading the people's democratic revolution," said Juanito Magbanua II, spokesperson of the Apolinario Gatmaitan Command.

"In Negros Island, it was due to the CPP's leadership and strong guidance that the revolutionary forces in the Island were able to stand firm and unswerving in the face of an enemy so many times stronger when the AFP made Negros Island one of the national priority areas in its Oplan Bayanihan counter-insurgency campaign since 2011," he added. AB

## Celebrate the victories of NCMR!

THE CPP in North Central Mindanao Region has achieved sterling victories. According to the statement of Norsen Manggubat, Party spokesperson of the region, the targets of the requisites set for the region in attaining the strategic stalemate are near-completion.

However, the CPP acknowledges that there is much left to be done.

In the ideological front, the three-level Party course was launched. Within the year, 31 batches of the Basic Party Course were completed, attended by 800 Party members, while six batches of the Intermediate Party Course were attended by 122 cadres, and more than 40 cadres and officers completed the advanced course. The limitations of cadres having low-literacy level were overcome with the aid of high-tech audiovisual equipment. However, there is need to double or triple these efforts in order to catch up with the required education of new Party recruits.

To some extent, cadres have attained a certain level of skill in conducting social investigation and class analysis (SICA) especially on the matter of feudal and semifeudal exploitation prevailing in respective area of operation.

These analyses became the concrete bases for the upsurge of widespread and simultaneous peasant movement in implementing the minimum programs of the revolutionary land reform.

The region is now in the process of drafting the 12-year summing-up of its revolutionary experience. The revolutionary mass base increased by 28% and the organized masses by a net 39%. These gains were accumulated through the implementation

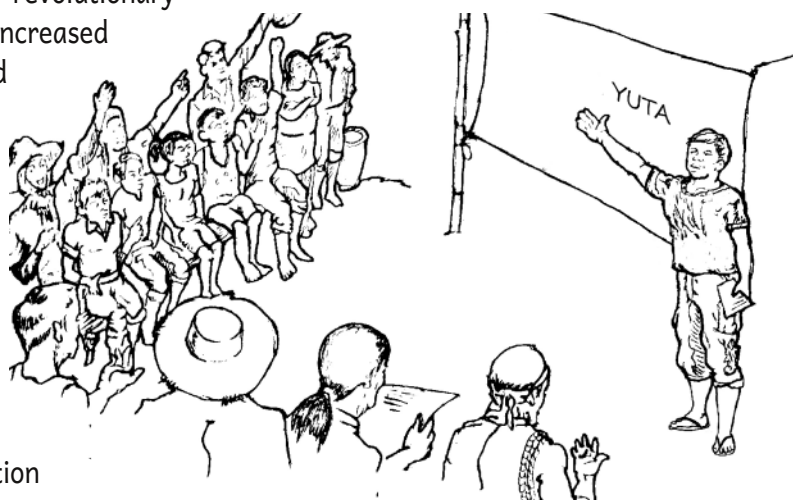
of the agrarian revolution in clusters of barangays; giving full-play to the leadership of the local sub-section committees in organizing and consolidating those who participated in the peasant struggles; and expansion in barrios outside areas of maneuver of guerilla platoons.

The NPA launched more than a hundred military actions against various armed appendages of the reactionary state. The Red army increased by 14% and its high powered rifles by 12%. Political-military trainings were launched continuously to strengthen the system of command from the regional level down. Command conferences were called regularly from the regional to the municipal commands down to the people's militias.

Independent actions of the people's militia increased by 25%. More than 100,000 benefitted from agrarian struggles launched in three provinces of the region. More than half of these struggles were at the inter-barrio or municipal levels.

These struggles were closely linked to anti-imperialist struggles against destructive mining, foreign plantations and other "development projects" of the ruling class.

They were also linked to the



anti-fascist struggle against forced conscription into the counter-revolutionary Bagani Force, massacres of civilians, illegal arrests, widespread militarization and other atrocities.

From these actions, councils of revolutionary mass organizations of peasants and Lumads at the municipal and section level were set-up, and organs of political power were established.

In the urban centers, the Party has struck deep roots among the workers, urban poor, youth and other sectors. Party units here aired the different concerns of the sectors such as low wages; contractualization; demolition; government neglect of disaster victims and the like.

The urban mass movement also supported issues from the countryside, especially the brutal killing of Lumads and peasants. From these struggles came activists from the ranks of students and urban poor who joined the NPA. The number of Party branches increased by 40% and the Party membership by 47%. Young cadres are brought into the Red army units and trained in comprehensive leadership while undergoing the process of personal remolding to become proletarian revolutionaries. The local subsection committees in the towns or barrio clusters continue to lead within their sphere even in the absence of the guerrilla platoon for a certain period.

Party unity is constantly fostered through the process of healthy debate of ideas, of pointing out the errors and limitations, of repudiating them, of rectifying and adopting the correct line and collective leadership.

There is constant endeavour to study, combat and rectify non-proletarian ideas that undermine the unity of the Party, violate organizational principles and internal processes and harm the revolution. AB

## Jeepney phaseout assailed

Jeepney drivers and operators led by the No to Jeepney Phaseout Coalition and its member PISTON held protests during the first week of January against the US-Aquino regime's scheme to phase out or remove from the streets the jeepneys supposedly for environmental protection and modernization.

According to the protesters, the scheme will result in widespread unemployment of drivers and operators, losses of local business and inevitably, the increase in transport fares. They are aware that the scheme is being pushed to favor big foreign companies manufacturing "alternative" vehicles as well as big compradors planning to invest in the public transportation system. This again adds to the long list of anti-industrialization moves of Aquino.

In the first wave of the phaseout, an estimated 200,000 operators and 600,000 drivers will lose work and livelihood throughout the country.

The scheme is scheduled to be implemented starting January 2016. Accordingly, jeepneys registered 15 years or longer will no longer be allowed to operate to allegedly reduce the level of carbon emission in the country.

In truth, the Aquino regime seeks to favor foreign businesses in implementing the use of "modern" jeepneys. In particular, this is part of the Department of Transportation and Communication's push to sell expensive e-jeepneys (jeepneys run by electricity).

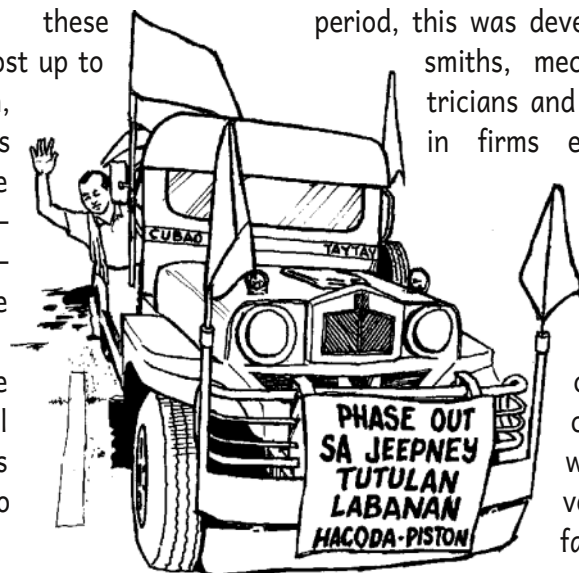
Each of these vehicles will cost up to P1.3 million, several times higher than the price of jeepneys assembled in the Philippines. Part of the thrust to sell these vehicles is the Aquino government's

plan to give loans to drivers and operators using public funds.

The coalition denounced the burden caused by additional requisites for new jeepneys, such as the Global Positioning System (GPS) and the automatic fare collection system. They are also protesting the ban on small and individual drivers and operators who are not subsumed by so-called "fleet management programs" that will be run by big operators and companies.

Under the phaseout scheme, big companies supplying the required machines and parts and the local bourgeois compradors intending to invest in the country's public transport system will surely accumulate immense profit. This will kill local businesses involved in the assembly of jeepneys and manufacture of spare parts since the Philippines will be required to import the parts from the sources of the companies.

The Philippines has no motor manufacturing industry. Big foreign factories in the country such as Toyota are focused on single-part production for export. Thus, all jeepneys are individually assembled from second hand pieces sourced from other countries. Over a long period, this was developed by tin-smiths, mechanics, electricians and visual artists in firms employing 20 workers or less. These firms are small and thus have no chance of competing with large vehicle manufacturers. AB



## More electoral kickbacks in the 2016 budget

THE NATIONAL budget approved by Congress and Aquino is considered as an "election budget" especially with the revival of the pork barrel system and the Disbursement Acceleration Program (DAP) despite their being declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court.

This was done through the re-definition of the term "savings" and the authorization of the transfer of funds through inserted provisions in the budget law. These "savings" are funds allocated in a previous budget, the bulk of which are for new infrastructure projects, that are intentionally not released by the DBM. Aquino signed the new budget last December 22.

More than P930 billion of the P3 trillion budget for 2016 are in the form of automatic appropriations

(primarily for the payment of foreign debt and the Internal Revenue Allotment or IRA) while the Special Purpose Fund reached P408 billion and P67.5 billion are unprogrammed funds. Only Aquino knows where these funds will be channeled to.

Some P11.7 billion worth of projects that have no other purpose but to boost the campaign of Liberal Party bets and allies was inserted in the 2016 budget.

Congressmen make a killing twice through the restored pork -

they claim credit for the project, and at the same time get kickbacks from contractors that go up to 30% of project cost.

The biggest of the projects embedded with pork barrel is the additional P5.4 billion for the Protective Services program under the DSWD.

Other additional funds identified as Congress-initiated revival of pork were: farm-to-market roads under the DA; alleged assistance for indigent patients under the DoH, funds for the Government Internship Program and the Tulong Pangkabuhayan sa Ating Disadvantaged Workers project under the DOLE and the Training for Work Scholarship program under TESDA. **AB**

## Kurds oppose heightened repression

THOUSANDS of Kurds marched last December 21 towards the Cizre and Silopi districts that are both under siege by Turkey's state armed forces. The said districts are inside the city of Şırnak in south-eastern Turkey.

The protesters assailed the imposition of curfew since November and the all-out repression against Kurd communities in Cizre and Silopi since December 15. Special police forces attacked and entered civilian homes and evicted the residents.

In Silopi, tanks stormed some houses last December 21 resulting in the death of an 11-year old boy. Last December 20, three women were killed by police gunfire and attacks.

These attacks are part of the continuing and intensifying repression of the Turkish government against the Kurd people who are struggling for the establishment of an independent Kurdish nation. The repression campaign started way back in July of 2015, after the peace negotiations between the party advancing the armed struggle, the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) and the party of the ruling clique in the country, the AKP, broke down.

The AKP started the all-out war against the Kurdish communities in the following months, using tanks, bombs, combat aircraft, helicopters and thousands of troops, resulting in

the destruction of entire communities and initiating widespread and intensive violations of human rights.

Most intense among the attacks of the AKP were against the communities of Cizre, Nusaybin, Silopi, Gever, Farqin and other cities in Northern Kurdistan that are being governed by the People's Democratic Party (HDP), a pro-Kurd party sitting in the Turkish parliament. The attacks target individuals identified as having links with the PKK and aim to destroy the HDP which it accuses of being a PKK

"front". It aims to drive away the residents from the communities that are suspected of being bases of the armed groups.

The destruction of schools, hospitals and other valuable civilian infrastructures are widespread. According to the residents, their plight is no different from the communities in the war zones of Iraq and Syria.

Along with this, the AKP launched intense campaigns of killings and repression against lawyers, journalists, opposition members, activists and other progressive forces throughout Turkey. Among those slain last November 29, 2015 was the noted human rights lawyer Tahir Elci. **AB**

### State harasses UP professor

A UNIVERSITY of the Philippines professor and two other activists were placed under surveillance and intimidation. This is part of the US-Aquino regime's heightened harassment of the open national-democratic movement that started last year.

The military surveillance on Prof. Mykel Andrada, an academician and writer of Pinoy Weekly; Max Santiago, a journalist with the Manila Times; and Vencer Crisostomo, chair of Anakbayan, came to light after two visual artist activists exposed the military's attempt to intimidate them to act as spies against the three. Archie Oclos and Aleili, visual artists who supported the campaign #StopLumadKillings, stated how they were approached by someone who introduced himself as "MJ Suarez" and ordered them to shadow Andrada, Santiago and Crisostomo. Before this, Oclos and Aleili themselves, along with their families and loved ones, were placed under surveillance. **AB**