



ANG

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

Bayan

Vol XLVII No. 3
February 7, 2016

www.philippinerevolution.net

Editorial

Bring about a new upsurge of protests

It is highly pertinent for us to mark this February the 30th anniversary of the EDSA Uprising which overthrew the US-Marcos dictatorship, and the 45th anniversary of the barricades at the University of the Philippines (UP) called the Diliman Commune.

These two are among the most brilliant moments in the history of the Filipino people's struggles. They challenged and shattered the previously existing political processes of the ruling system. The Filipino people used their political power to shake the foundations of the ruling classes.

It is important to look back at these two historic moments in order to draw lessons and inspiration to decisively fight worsening US domination and intervention in the country. In collusion with the puppet regime, neoliberal policies are imposed left and right, worsening the oppression and exploitation of the Filipino people.

The broad masses of the people urgently need to advance the struggles to end oppression, exploitation and repression

under the crisis-ridden semicolonial and semifeudal system and vigorously pursue the struggle for national democracy.

The EDSA Uprising is about the use of people's sovereign power. This is an inalienable right of the people. This is the lesson which the reactionaries determinedly want to erase from the people's consciousness. They insist that "the people are tired" of struggling in the streets in the hope of stopping the people from making use of their inherent political power.

The people's grievances and outrage are being drawn into the realm of reactionary elections. The EDSA Uprising is portrayed as detrimental to the "stability of the system" even if this does not mean anything but the stability of the rule and interests of the oppressive classes.

Thirty

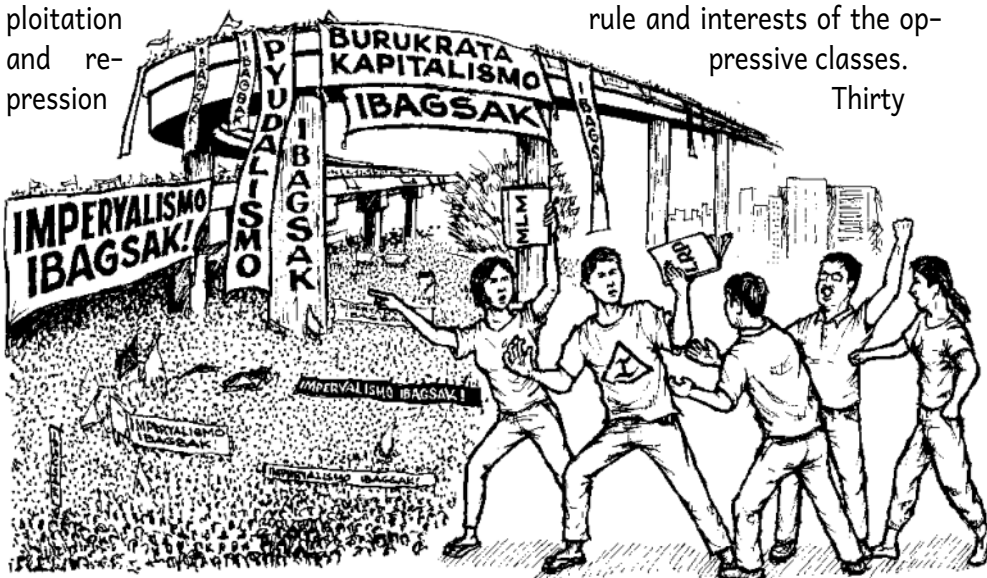
years ago, through the EDSA Uprising, the Filipino people asserted how they cannot be confined to the elections or other processes set by the ruling system. With the EDSA Uprising, they exhibited how they can use collective street action as a weapon to overthrow a detested regime, even if this is not enough to transform the entire oppressive ruling social system.

The EDSA Uprising came about as a result of years of heroic struggles against the US-Marcos dictatorship, both in the cities and countryside, both unarmed and armed. The collective determination demonstrated by the Filipino people in the EDSA Uprising was tempered in the flames of strikes and mass struggles since the 1970s.

Among these was the Diliman Commune of 1971 which arose from the protest movement against rising gasoline prices. In four days, thousands of students from UP barricaded the streets going into the UP Diliman campus as a show of rebellion against the ruling system.

The Diliman Commune started as a student protest against rising gasoline prices. They sharply condemned and opposed monopoly control of the international oil industry.

The Marcos regime unleashed the full-force of the police and military to suppress the strike but was met by students with determined and steadfast anti-fascist struggle. This further gained



strength with the support and participation of UP teachers and workers, residents of surrounding communities and students from other schools.

The students and other sectors who joined the barricades waved the banner of revolution. They were a continuation of the widespread demonstrations of the First Quarter Storm of 1970, the series of demonstrations of youth and students and the toiling people demanding social revolution.

Although the barricades lasted only a few days, through the Diliman Commune the youth and students succeeded in drawing the people's attention to the basic problems of imperialism, feudalism and bureaucrat capitalism. During the Diliman Commune, the entire campus served as a cultural bastion of the Philippine revolution. It repudiated the concept of "student power" and propagated the principle that the masses shape history. It galvanized the students in their numbers to unite with the toiling masses and troop to the factories,

communities and the countryside.

THE FILIPINO people are faced with a worsening crisis amid the prolonged and worsening global capitalist system and the aggravating and deepening crisis of the Philippine semicolonial and semifeudal system.

The people are made to shoulder the burdensome neoliberal policies. These are imposed by the reactionary state to allow the big capitalists and landlords full freedom to plunder our natural resources and exploit the labor power and wring the last drop of sweat from the worker and peasant masses.

Millions of workers suffer from extremely low wages and contractualization and other forms of flexible labor. Millions of peasants suffer from landlessness and landgrabbing by big landlords and foreign capitalists in plantations and mines, slave wages and lack of jobs. Millions of youth cannot afford school because of exorbitant fees. Under K-12, hundreds of thousands of low-skilled youth are churned out

to further expand the army of cheap labor.

Together with the imposition of burdensome neoliberal policies upon the toiling masses, the ruling classes propagate ideas and influence to make the people accept the prevailing system and silently suffer their poverty and hardships. Let us shatter the ideas that promote meekness and silence further confining the people in a state of oppression and exploitation.



The people must learn the lessons of their long history of resistance and struggle, including the EDSA Uprising and the Diliman Commune. Draw lessons from other periods of upsurge of protests and mass struggles.

Use these lessons to make Aquino and his regime answerable for the numerous and large-scale crimes against the people. The period before the elections are enough to launch big protest actions to make Aquino tremble.

The commemoration of the EDSA Uprising to the May 1 demonstration are opportunities to unite the entire country to advance large protests to condemn and charge Aquino for all the policies which have worsened the exploitation and condition of the Filipino masses, as well as for surrendering the national sovereignty to US imperialism to the detriment of the entire people.

Expect no change to come out of the upcoming 2016 elections. Whoever among the competing reactionary candidates gets installed to power is sure to continue the neoliberal policies. The US will ensure that the next president will be its puppet. The programs of each one aim to attract foreign investments and create the conditions and policies that favor foreign big capitalists.

Whoever will sit as president will surely just continue the anti-people programs of the Aquino regime of the past six years. In essence, this is no different from the

 <p>Vol XLVII No 3 February 7, 2016</p> <p>Ang Bayan is published in Pilipino, Bisaya, Hiligaynon, Waray and English.</p>  <p>It can be downloaded from the Philippine Revolution Web Central at www.philippinerevolution.net</p> <p>Ang Bayan welcomes contributions in the form of articles and news items. Readers are encouraged to send feedback and recommendations for improving our newspapers. Send your messages to cppinformationbureau@gmail.com</p>	<h2 style="text-decoration: underline;">Contents</h2> <p>Editorial: Bring about a new upsurge of protests 1</p> <p>Expose the distortions of EDSA Uprising 3</p> <p>Fight for additional SSS pension widens 4</p> <p>Cover-up on US role in Mamasapano 5</p> <p>US Socom: Secret War in 135 countries 6</p> <p>NPA raids Dole and Del Monte 7</p> <p>3rd SFB, "Magahat" suffer 8 KIA, 7 WIA 7</p> <p>Killings, militarization heighten 8</p> <p>NGP, landgrabbing in Cagayan Valley 9</p> <p>China economic slowdown 10</p> <p>Farmers demand free irrigation 11</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Ang Bayan is published fortnightly by the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Philippines</p>	

programs of Arroyo, Estrada, Ramos and Corazon Aquino all of which were designed and funded by the IMF-WB in accordance with its push for liberalization, deregulation, privatization and denationalization. In pursuit of hegemonism, the US will further intensify military intervention under the next puppet regime.

The next regime should immediately be confronted by the people with large demonstrations in order to relentlessly pursue Aquino's indictment, and moreover, in order to pursue their demand for national democracy. Bring about an upsurge of protests against imperialism, feudalism and bureaucrat capitalism. AB

Expose the distortions of the EDSA Uprising history

In marking the upcoming 30th anniversary of the EDSA Uprising in February 25, the distortions regarding this historic event should be corrected. The Filipino people must draw lessons useful for their future endeavor in shaping history.

The EDSA Uprising was the culmination of some 15 years of the Filipino people's struggle against the US-Marcos fascist dictatorship. That this was the result of a long period of struggle, including heroic armed resistance, is a fact that the reactionaries wish to expunge from memory.

The ruling elite continuously attempt to dissociate the EDSA Uprising from the people. They describe EDSA as a "miracle" inspired by Cory Aquino and Cardinal Sin. Last year, Aquino celebrated EDSA in Cebu to emphasize Cory's role who was then in Cebu seeking safe refuge. Along with this is the concocted myth that the EDSA Uprising started with the Benigno S. Aquino assassination in 1983 and concluded with the coup d'etat attempt within Camp Crame.

They desperately seek to obscure the protracted history of struggle, the sufferings and sacrifices of thousands of people, and the long years of forging the country's consciousness and power to overthrow the hated fascist regime.

Millions of people went out to EDSA on February 22-25, 1986. Contradictory forces converged at EDSA in an informal alliance against Marcos.

Among these was the Enrile-Ramos group with the Reform the Armed Forces Movement (RAM) that declared its rupture with the

regime on February 22 and established its own command center within Camp Crame. This blew open the severe rift within the military and police caused by Marcos favoring one faction over the other regarding promotions, money-making opportunities and power.

Another group was the conservative opposition of anti-Marcos reactionaries and the Catholic Church led by Jaime Cardinal Sin, who became critical of Marcos only during the late part of martial law, when the mass movement was already on the upsurge.

The third group was the national democratic movement that brought forward the most consolidated forces who have long been fighting the dictatorship. They weathered the whole period of martial law wherein thousands of revolutionary martyrs and people were slain, abducted, tortured and imprisoned by the fascist dictatorship.

Solid backbone of the anti-US-Marcos struggle

The more than one decade and a half before the EDSA Uprising was a period for the national democratic movement to arouse, organize and mobilize the masses. The revolutionary movement gave concrete form to the people's hatred not only of repression, but also of the widespread plunder and rapaciousness

of the regime, and of poverty resulting from the absence of industrialization and land reform.

Under brutal martial law repression, cadres, activists and the revolutionary masses laid their lives on the line and gave all their strength to bring forth open mass actions, until they were able to reach out and influence various other patriotic forces in a broad antifascist struggle.

This struggle deepened with the antifeudal struggle and heightened with the anti-imperialist struggle resulting in the extreme isolation of the US-Marcos dictatorship. Effective united front work and a strong revolutionary movement encouraged other sectors and classes to gain the courage to fight the detested regime.

When Marcos had Benigno Aquino assassinated on Agosto 21, 1983, the people's rage exploded into a giant wave of protest. The national democratic forces stood as the backbone of this wave. They strengthened and sustained mass struggles in the face of Marcos' attempts to crush these.

The anti-Marcos factions of the ruling class who had been quiet within the country or chose safer methods of opposition in the US then linked up with the swelling movement against Marcos. Broad alliances such as the Justice for Aquino, Justice for All and Coalition for the Restoration of Democracy were formed with the national democratic forces at the core but also including other patriotic forces

like Tañada and Diokno, up to the anti-Marcos reactionaries including Corazon Aquino.

They worked with the revolutionary movement in militant actions in 1983-1985. Demonstrations of 50,000-100,000 youth, workers and peasants became frequent, and were warmly supported by the people.

US intervention

Concerned that the national democratic movement was fast gaining ground and moving towards a leading role, the US had to shift its policy in 1984 from supporting Marcos towards easing him out. A series of pressures on Marcos took place, including the visit of Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) director William Casey in May 1985 followed by President Reagan's personal envoy Senator Paul Laxalt in October 1985.

All these had the consistent message that Marcos should call for presidential elections before 1987 or else funds from the US would continue to be withheld. Laxalt also continued the pressure in phone calls to Marcos until the latter announced in November 1985 that snap presidential elections will be held.

A few days after Marcos' announcement of elections, assistant secretary of state for East Asia Richard Holbrooke arrived in Manila. With him in meeting with Corazon Aquino, Jose Cojuangco and Agapito "Butz" Aquino were US Ambassador Stephen Bosworth and Manila CIA station chief Norbert Garrett.

They laid down to Aquino the conditions for her certain victory as president. First was to keep the communists and communist sympathizers out of her inner campaign organization and prospective cabinet; the second was not to make the US military bases a campaign issue, to which she acquiesced.

She departed from the basic document of the so-called convenor group which she had signed with the national democratic forces on December 26, 1984 calling for the dismantling of the US military bases. She took the line of

keeping her "options open" until 1991, though negotiations would start in 1987.

The elections were held on February 7, 1986. The canvassing was never completed as the regime's personnel handling the computers staged a walk-out, unable to put up with the gross fraud.

The national democratic movement was the biggest force to protest the fraud.

To seize the initiative in the escalating protest, the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) under the direction of the US departed from its stand of critical collaboration and declared on February 14 that the Marcos regime was immoral and illegitimate.

At the fourth day of the stand-off at EDSA, Marcos was spirited out of Malacañang. He and his family together with his closest lapdogs were put on board a plane and given safe haven in Hawaii, USA.

Overthrow of the regime

The people must never forget that the US-Marcos dictatorship was toppled with the strength of their action. Not with a miracle. Not with the help of the US, or Cory Magic or the RAM's coup d'état.

In the EDSA Uprising, the most decisive force in deposing the US-Marcos dictatorship were the revolutionary masses. They were the most thorough and consistent in continuing the fight and served as the core of the broad and militant mass movement. It was because of the mass movement that the US was forced to play its hand in easing out its isolated puppet.

But the revolution's strength at that time was capable only of overthrowing a regime. Therefore, the EDSA Uprising was not a revolution, because it did not topple the rotten ruling system.

A true revolution and realization of fundamental change will be attained only when the whole machinery of the ruling state is ripped apart through people's war and a democratic people's government is established. AB

Fight for additional SSS pension spreads

PROTESTS against the US-Aquino regime's veto of the proposed law providing an additional pension for retired SSS members are fast spreading across the country.

Last January 28, rallies and other protest actions for the additional P2,000 in monthly pension were launched in Metro Manila as well as other parts of the country. Under the banner "Kalampagin ang SSS" (Hound the SSS), the Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU) led simultaneous pickets in front of the SSS national office in Quezon City and in the cities of Baguio, Calamba, Legaspi, Iloilo, Kalibo, Cebu, Cagayan de Oro, General Santos and Davao.

Meanwhile, the protest dubbed "Sama-samang Sigaw" (Concerted Clamor) was held on January 30 at the QC Memorial Circle.

Last February 4, at the last congressional session, Rep. Neri Colmenares' microphone was turned off cutting short his speech calling for an override of Aquino's veto. This was condemned by patriotic and progressive groups as well as by some oppositionist congressmen.

Meanwhile, the Ibon

Foundation condemned the regime for refusing to raise the SSS pension when it is using a large part of government funds to guarantee the profits of big bourgeois compradors.

According to studies, if the SSS were to improve its collection system and reduce the gargantuan bonuses of its officials, the institution will still have a large reserve. Studies by advocates of the proposal indicate that the SSS still has large assets (P198 million), uncollected contributions from delinquent employers (P13.5 billion) and a balance of up to P325

billion in uncollected revenues in 2009.

The institution also has P447 billion in assets as of October 2015. All these prove empty the claims of the Aquino regime that the SSS will lose money if additional pension is granted.

On the other hand, the regime is continuously pouring funds to private business involved in the Public-Private Partnership. An example of this is the P35 billion guarantee or 54% of the overall expenses for building the LRT1 by the consortium led by the Ayala and Pangilinan groups. AB

Cover-up continues on US role in Mamasapano

NOTHING close to a revelation, but a continued cover-up of the US' primary role and responsibility and the Aquino regime's collaboration, characterized the Senate's reopening of the Mamasapano incident investigation.

During the January 27 Senate reinvestigation charade, Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile insisted that Aquino had direct knowledge of the January 25, 2015 bungled SAF operation in Tukanalipao, Mamasapano, Maguindanao. Killed in this operation were 44 SAF troopers, 17 MILF/BIFF elements, and five civilians.

But Enrile made no remark on the very obvious truth about the interventionist role of the US.

Enrile's exposé of the purported recorded cellphone conversations and text messages point to Aquino's role in Mamasapano. He insists that Aquino intentionally prohibited sending reinforcements resulting in the annihilation of the SAF forces.

But his voice was effectively overridden by the regime's defenders. In the end, the Senate decided to retain its previous report hiding the failure of the US and Aquino leading to the numerous deaths of police commandos in Mamasapano. Bearing the brunt

of the blame was still Getulio Napeñas.

The Philippines' national sovereignty is the real victim in Mamasapano. This was willfully and grossly trampled upon by the US which directly planned, trained and directed troops, and participated in the actual assault of their own chosen target. US Ambassador Philip Goldberg keeps on denying this, but he was still compelled to admit that they had a hand in training troops and gave drone support. But he claims that this was requested by the Philippine government.

In fact, US officers were giving directions at the tactical command post in Shariff Aguak where Napeñas was at that time. Forces of the JSOTF-P chose the SAF troops for the operation. American soldiers also trained the SAF operators in their facilities at the Zamboanga resort of Celso Lobregat. They also funded and supplied the armaments.

As the chief puppet, Aquino

agreed to implement the US project. Some lawyers say this is an impeachable offense because Aquino allowed US troops to conduct combat operations in Philippine soil without Congressional approval.

Even before the reinvestigation, the Department of Justice (DOJ) cleared the US and Aquino of any accountability in the massacre. The DOJ decided on January 14 to file charges of direct assault with murder and robbery against some 90 accused for the death of 35 troopers of the 55th SAC. The accused are alleged members of the MILF and BIFF. No cases were filed against SAF personnel for the massacre of five civilians and wounding many others including a five-year-old girl. The victims were shot at close range even before and after the encounter.

In an attempt to quell the resentment of PNP personnel and the families of the SAF 44, Malacañang on January 25 awarded the Medal of Valor to two of the slain SAF commandos. But instead of waning, more resentment emerged as medals were not awarded to all officers killed. AB

US Socom: Secret Warfare in 135 countries

The US military officials who planned and directed the failed operation in Mamasapano in January 26, 2015 are under the so-called Joint Operations Task Force Philippines (JSOTF-P). The JSOTF-P is a 900-man special unit of American troops under the US Special Operations Command (SOCOM).

After the recent approval of the EDCA by the Supreme Court, a more active role of the US military in the Philippines is most certain, along the lines of the Asia Pivot. Aside from the use of regular military forces under the US Pacific Command, among the forces used by the US are the special troops under the SOCOM.

SOCOM is composed of such units as the Green Berets of the US Army, Navy Seals from the US Navy and the Special Forces of the US Air Force and Marines.

The US has been long using the SOCOM in "counter-insurgency" wars against countries struggling for national liberation as in Vietnam then. The Special Forces were the first to enter Vietnam before the eventual deployment of 500,000 regular American forces in 1968. In the Philippines, SOCOM created and deployed the JSOTF-P in 2002 when the US declared the Philippines as a "second front" in the "war against terrorism". It established a permanent presence inside Camp Navarro of Zamboanga City.

SOCOM encompasses the whole world

SOCOM operations cover 135 countries, 80% compared to the 75 countries in 2010 and double compared to what it reached before Obama became president in 2008. It has doubled its forces from 33,000 in 2001 to 70,000 at present.

SOCOM's budget more than tripled from \$3 billion in 2001 to \$10 billion in 2014 (in con-

stant dollars). This is on top of the \$8 billion yearly allocation from various services (army, navy, air force and marines). Troop deployment of US special forces overseas tripled. Each day some 11,000 troops of SOCOM are deployed outside the US.

Currently heading the SOCOM is Maj. Gen. Joseph Votel, who was recently designated as next to head the US Central Command (Cencom) covering the Middle East.

Since 2006, the number of SOCOM forces in the Pacific, including those in the Philippines, increased from 7% to 10%. The percentage of forces deployed to the Middle East decreased from 85% to 69%, while deployment to the European Command (EUCOM), including the hotspot Ukraine, doubled from 3% to 6%. The largest increase is in the Africa Command from 1% to 10%, reflective of growing interests in that region.

Most of the deployed special forces are placed under the territorial commands of the US, such as the Special Operations Command-

Pacific (SOCPAC) which includes the Philippines. There is also one sub-command operating clandestinely, the Joint Special Operations Command (JSOC). JSOTF-P is under this. Votel originated from this, which reputedly specializes in hunting and killing those it deems as "terrorists."

The most elite of all special operations are undertaken by the JSOC. Its expertise is in covert, clandestine and "low-visibility" operations in the "hottest" places or combat operations. This included the operation to assassinate Abu Sabaya in Mindanao.

Most of SOCOM deployment is geared towards training missions. These include individual-level training such as rifle marksmanship, land navigation, airborne operations, etc. They provide unit-level training in subjects like small-unit operations, counterterrorism operations and maritime operations. SOF can also provide formal classroom training in subjects like the military decision-making process or staff planning.

From 2012 to 2014, Special Operations Forces (SOF) conducted 500 Joint Combined Exchange Training (JCET) missions in 67 countries yearly. Some 25,000 troops from 77 countries joined in these exercises from 2012-2013 alone. It also conducted 75 trainings in 30 countries in 2014; and planned to launch 98 in 34 countries last year.

The most number of JCETs in 2012-2013 were carried out by the SOCPAC. The most numerous of these trainings in 2012 were launched in the Philippines. In 2013, there were equal number of trainings launched in the Philippines and Thailand.

(To be continued in the next issue.) **AB**





NPA raids Dole and Del Monte plantations in Bukidnon

The New People's Army (NPA) in Bukidnon launched a series of attacks on pineapple and banana plantations during the last week of January to resist the multinationals' environmentally destructive planned expansion.

On January 25-30, NPA fighters destroyed various destructive and poison spraying heavy equipment of the big plantations to paralyze their operations and stop their expansion.

On January 25, a bulldozer, Hummer truck and generator owned by Leo Wu, contractor of Del Monte Philippines, Inc. in Barangay San Juan, Balingasag was torched. Two days after, four hectares of Del Monte's MD2 pineapple were razed in Barangay Lapinigan, Libona, Bukidnon.

On January 30, the NPA burned a pineapple boom spray of Lapanday Company in Barangay Laguitas and a banana boom spray of Dole Skyland. Also torched were Del Monte's two D150 Caterpillar

bulldozers in Barangay Gabunan, Casisang, Malaybalay City.

According to Allan Juanito, spokesperson of NPA-North Central Mindanao Region, soil excavation for leveling plantations cause similar destruction with that of mining.

"For every hectare bulldozed, more than 150 tonnes or 70 dump-truck loads of soil would be displaced and eroded into streams and rivers. This would desolate every standing tree, grass and other undergrowth, as well as good insects that would be poisoned by insect sprays and fertilizers," he added.

"While the numerous peasants and their families here in our region wallow in intense poverty ...the

imperialist companies of Del Monte and Dole-Itucho, including Lapanday of the Lorenzo family, continually indulge in expanding their plantations...For every hectare of land used by the plantations, another hectare allotted to food crop production is lost."

Crops in these plantations are not consumed by the farmers but generate large profits for multinationals that export them. Lapanday Foods produces more than two million crates of pineapple yearly in its plantations in Aglayan and Maluko, Bukidnon.

Del Monte Pacific Ltd (DMPL), the largest pineapple plantation in the world, harvests 700,000 tons of pineapple yearly in Mindanao. Dole Food Company, in partnership with Itochu Corporation of Japan, is known as the world's biggest supplier of fresh fruit. AB

3rd SFB, "Magahat" suffer eight KIA, seven WIA

EIGHT were killed and seven wounded on the side of the 3rd Special Forces Battalion (SFB) of the Philippine Army and the paramilitary "Magahat" in three separate clashes against the New People's Army last January 15-16 in Barangay Mabuhay, Prosperidad, Agusan del Sur.

A unit of the NPA-Front 19 ambushed a 12-man "Magahat" group in the morning of January 15, and another unit harassed the said paramilitary group in the afternoon. Two elements of the bandit "Magahat" were killed. The next day, at around 9:20 a.m., 50 elements of combined 3rd SFB PA and "Magahat" troops assaulted the NPA position in Sitio Kauswagan, Barangay Mabuhay. Six enemy troops were killed while seven were wounded in almost 20 minutes of fighting.

According to Ka Maria Malaya, spokesperson of the National Democratic Front-Northeastern Mindanao Region, present in the operation were "Magahat" bandits who had been involved in killing Lumads. Residents reported the presence in the 3rd SFB operation of Bobby Tejero, Romeo Banusan, Emie Perez, and Anit Belandres,

all under Kalpit Egwa.

Bobby Tejero was involved in the massacre of Lumads in Han-ayan, Diatagon, Lianga on September 1, 2015. Anit Belandres is a brother of Marcial Belandres who murdered Lumad leader Henry Alameda on October 24, 2014 in Barangay San Isidro, Lianga, Surigao del Sur.

Malaya added that the clashes are proof of the Armed Forces of the Philippines' control of the criminal group of Tejero and Belandres, and that the AFP has no intention of arresting the "Magahat" for killing Lumads.

Meanwhile, three harassment operations were conducted by the Celso Minguez Command-NPA Sorsogon against troops of the 31st Infantry Battalion and PNP Public Safety Battalion. An NPA team fired first at a column of enemy on operations in Barangay Tabi, Gubat, on January 27, 4:00 p.m. This was followed by two harassment operations on enemy troops encamped at the barangay hall of San Antonio, Barcelona on January 29, 10 a.m. and in Bulacao, Gubat, that afternoon. The har-

assessment operations were carried out against enemy troops that have been conducting combat operations for a week in the towns of Gubat, Casiguran, Bacon, and Barcelona.

Meanwhile on January 25, a soldier of the Philippine Air Force was killed in an encounter in Barangay Toong,

Tuy, Batangas. A group of Red fighters were on maneuvers on a hill when they caught sight of the soldiers and fired. A few hours after the incident, the PAF dispatched a helicopter and strafed the areas around Mount Batulao, causing fear among the residents of barangays Toong, Aga, Pulo, Boboc and San Jose. **AB**



Killings, militarization heighten at start of 2016

The US-Aquino regime commenced the first month of its last year in office with left-and-right killings, arrests, heightened militarization and other human rights abuses. Most vicious of these was the slaying of three civilians in Mindanao as well as in Masbate, illegal arrests in Sorsogon and the deployment of additional battalions of troops to Surigao.

Meanwhile, youth and student leaders launched activities to demand the release of political detainees.

Negros Occidental. Karapatan recorded four killed in the first month of January. First was peasant activist Benjie Sustento who was kidnapped on the night of January 9 in his house in Lopez Jaena, Murcia, Negros Occidental. His body was found the next day, with torture marks and bullet wounds in the face. He was blindfolded, gagged, with hands bound and dragged by a vehicle several hundred meters on the road. Sustento is a member of the National Federation of Sugar Workers. Before being killed, Sustento participated in the collective cultivation of land and experienced harassment. Earlier, Sustento's brother was charged with arson by a land speculator.

Davao Oriental. Latest of the victims last January was Christopher Matibay, 43, lider of the group Barug Katawhan formed by victims of Typhoon Pablo and one of the participants of the Manilakbayan last year. Matibay was seated with his wife at a waiting shed in Lambajon, Baganga, Davao Oriental at 4 p.m. last January 18 when a motorcycle-rider passed and stopped nearby. Matibay recognized him as an intelligence officer with the

codename "Mike" who had long been tailing him. When Matibay's wife stood up to buy supper, "Mike" shot Matibay before speeding off. Matibay sustained three gunshot wounds.

In Barangay Central of Mati, another activist, Ricky Peñaranda, chair of the Fishermen Landless Association, was gunned down by motorcycle-riding men.

Davao del Norte. Residents of Sitio Laslasakan, Sitio Nalubas and Sitio Panga-an in Barangay Palma Gil and Sitio Pongpong in Barangay Dagoho, Talaingod were forced to evacuate. This was several days after the paramilitary group Alamarra killed a 15-year old student named Alibando Tingkas (See Ang Bayan, January 21, 2016).

As a result, schools of the Sa-lugpongan Ta'tanu Igkanugon Community Learning Center in these four sitios were forced to shut down. Teacher, students and other civilians were forced to evacuate in fear of further attacks by the paramilitary group.

Compostela Valley. Teresita "Bebing" Navacilla, a 60-year old activist, was attacked on the night of January 27 in Barangay Kingking, Pantukan while she was tending her store. She sustained wounds from two bullets that grazed and flew past the back of her head and nape.

After three days, Navacilla succumbed to bullet wounds. Navacilla joined the struggle against the entry of the Nationwide Development Corporation (Nadecor) and the St. Augustine Gold & Copper Limited, a Canadian firm. She was a small-scale miner and chair of the Gumayan local community in Kingking. She is the 54th victim of extrajudicial killings in Southern Mindanao since 2010. She was also one of the convenors of the Save Pantukan Movement, an alliance opposed to large-scale mining.

The afternoon she was killed, Navacilla paid a visit to Giovanni Gutierrez, a fellow small-scale miner and "abantero" or tunnel digger who is accused of being an NPA member and jailed on trumped-up charges at the municipal office of the Philippine National Police.



Perpetrators of the killing were believed to be from the 46th IB that have been on a rampage in Pantukan lately, arresting innocent civilians and portraying them as members of the NPA and assaulting the human rights of progressive leaders in the area as well. The military primarily targets the small-scale miners, farmers and Lumad of the Mansaka tribe who are opposed to the full operations of Nadecor and St. Augustine Mining.

Nadecor is the sole claim owner of mineral rights to 1,656 hectares of Kingking property covering four villages of Pantukan including Kingking, Magnaga, Tagdangua and Araibo.

Before this, at the start of the year, Renante Mantos, a leader of the Hugpong sa Mag-uuma sa Walog Compostela (Farmers solidarity in Walog o HUMAWAC), was charged with trumped up cases of illegal detention of his own neighbors.

Last year, two attempts were made on the life of Isabello Tindasan, chair of the Compostela

Farmer's Association (CFA). CFA is opposing the entry of Agusan Petroleum Mining Company (AGPET), a subsidiary of San Miguel Corporation owned by Eduardo Cojuangco, uncle of Benigno Aquino (See Ang Bayan, December 7, 2015).

Masbate. The NPA-Masbate (Jose Rapsing Command or JRC) identified the Charlie Company of the 9th IB as the perpetrator of the slaying of the Bartolabac, San Jacinto barangay captain in Ticao Island this January. According to the JRC, Brgy. Captain Rey S. Encabo was forcibly killed "to silence his firm commitment to defend the human rights of his fellow residents in the barangay."

Councilor Robert "Bongbong" D. Almondriel who was with the barangay captain at the time of the murder was also killed. Jay C. Amoradiel, 14, who witnessed the crime was likewise killed. Encabo's face was clubbed while his body was already sprawled on the ground while the teenager Jay's face was also blown up.

The JRC identified Corporal

Dangcalan and Sgt. Bustamante, both of the 9th IB that was operating in the area at that time, as the perpetrators of the massacre.

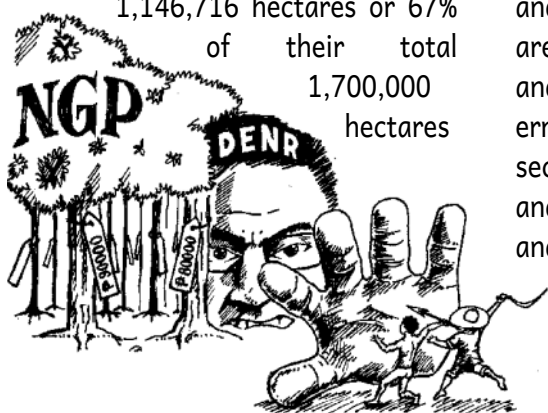
Widespread protests

Meanwhile, student leaders and writers of the Polytechnic University of the Philippines were prevented from visiting three detained youths in the Special Intensive Care Area-1 in Camp Bagong Diwa, Bicutan last January 17. The three detainees -- Jared Morales, Hermogenes Reyes Jr., and Rex Villaflor -- are counted among the 136 youth political prisoners in the country. An attempt by student leaders of UP to visit Maricon Montajes, a detained film student of the University of the Philippines, in the Batangas Provincial Jail was also denied. According to the guard on duty on the day of the visit last January 24, the new jail warden, David Quimio Jr., gave instructions not to allow the visitors access to the political prisoners due to the "special nature" of their case. AB

National Greening Program, landgrabbing in Cagayan Valley

The National Greening Program (NGP) is a sham reforestation program of the US-Aquino regime. This is a landgrabbing scheme of big logging concessionaires. (See Ang Bayan, December 7, 2015.) NGP is going full blast in Cagayan Valley.

In the provinces of Isabela, Nueva Vizcaya and Quirino, 1,146,716 hectares or 67% of their total 1,700,000 hectares



are classified as forestal although farmers have long cleared, tilled and resided in these lands. These are areas of deep social discontent and resentment against the government, due to the absence of land security over the cultivated lands and partiality towards big foreign and local businesses. These are lands coveted by land speculators and logging plantation contractors.

In Quirino

In the municipality of Diffun, 300 hectares previously planted to corn by farmers of Barangay Magsaysay, Campamento, San Pascual and Dumanise have been turned into gmelina plantations. The DENR included these in its reforestation program in 1997.

The people were deceived by the DENR's promises that farmers will continue owning the land and receive compensation for planting gmelina. Supposedly they would be allowed to use the timber for the construction of their houses.

The former barangay captain of Magsaysay came up with papers that showed the approval of the residents in declaring the area a Forest Zone and allowing 300 hectares to be planted with gmelina. DENR deployed its personnel to the

area, among them Butch Marsan who had American partners.

The promises were never fulfilled. The residents are forbidden to cut trees and to plant any crop in their land that is covered by the contract. At present, Marsan is claiming the whole plantation. He employed forest rangers to guard against and threaten people who want to reclaim their land. Because of this, several families have left the place. Marsan is also planning to sell the plantation due to disagreements with his American partner. This year, the gmelina plantation will be expanded to 500 hectares as per agreement with the NGP.

In Isabela

More than 200,000 hectares were covered by the province's Integrated Social Forestry Program. This contained countless rules, regulations and prohibitions that drove residents and tillers away from the mountains. In cancelling the Industrial Forest Management Agreement (IFMA) applications in the municipality of San Mariano, the foothills of Sierra Madre are now covered by the NGP. A P50,000-per-hectare fund is available for this program.

In Brgy. Disulap, 4Ps beneficiaries are required to plant trees. They are threatened exclusion from the list of beneficiaries if they do not comply. This is still implemented by the DENR in coordination with the Department of Social Welfare and Development. Farmers are also offered contracts to "reforest" the lands they are cultivating. They are offered P10 per seedling or if funds are available, as much as P10,000 per hectare. In this manner, a bigger chunk of the funds, or P40,000 per hectare, is pocketed by DENR officials.

Local politicians Rep. Ana Go and Jun Carreon commissioned a helicopter survey of their almost 1,000-hectare former concession in the Barangay Minanga, Disusuan and Dibuluan tri-boundary. Sonny Rodriguez, an official of the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples, has a share in these lands. These are productive lands long occupied and tilled by Ilocanos, Ibanag, Kalinga, Ifugao and Aggay peoples. Landgrabbers are seizing the opportunities provided by the new law that allows the use of these areas for biofuel production.

The NGP will also cover 100 hectares occupied by Agta and Ifugao peoples in the barangays of

San Jose and Casala. Bioethanol investors use coercion and deceptive offers of payment to take advantage of the difficult living conditions of the indigenous people. The land delineation survey in 2014 was accompanied by operations of the 86th Infantry Battalion.

The greed of people who are in business and power is beyond measure. They will occupy whatever land is available. They take turns enjoying the benefits of the land produced by generations of farmers. They blatantly appropriate the wealth borne out of the people's labour through reactionary laws and might of their mercenaries and soldiers.

In the face of this greed and viciousness, the people understand that their aspirations for freedom and justice will be achieved only through resistance. Resistance not only to sham programs like reforestation, but resistance to imperialist economic, political and military control of the lives of the people through the overthrow of a government subservient to the imperialists and establishment of a truly pro-peasant and pro-people government. *(From Baringkuas correspondent.)*

AB

China economic slowdown and threats of worsening global crisis

Stock markets across the world slumped almost all at the same time during the first week of trading this 2016. The big capitalist bankers and investors trembled at the threat of another financial storm and the worsening of the global capitalist system's protracted depression.

The stock markets dipped after the release of data indicating a slowdown in the China economy. It shows that last December, industrial production growth slowed to 5.9% from 6% in November. Growth of retail trade also slowed down from 11.3% last November to 11.1% in December.

While these show only a slight slowdown in the China economy, these have shaken the financial spec-

ulators and investors in stocks and other financial instruments. They have been keeping watch of any indication of a slump in the China economy that will pull the global capitalist system to



a worse crisis.

In 2009, China poured \$587 billion for economic invigoration, most of which went to housing and infrastructure such as modern rails and highspeed trains, wide roads, ports and others. China also poured large funds into Africa. Last 2015, China financed one-fourth of the initial \$100 billion fund of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), with which it expects to fund large-scale infrastructure projects under the New Silk Road. Almost half of the \$100 billion fund of the New Development Bank (BRICS bank) also came from China.

China has been investing in backward countries classified as "emerging" economies. But this has accomplished little in reviving the international economy and has failed to moderate the crisis of overproduction in the capitalist countries. A number of China projects, such as the oil pipeline from Siberia might no longer be pursued. The "special economic zone" it established in its border with Kazakhstan, another project under the New Silk Road, is almost abandoned.

Despite the size of the China

economy, it is now also feeling the growing problem of overproduction. It has been in the process of slowing down over the past years. After almost two decades of rapid capitalist expansion since the end of the 1980s, the growth of the China economy has slowed down concurrent with the collapse of big banks in 2008.

There is a growing inventory of unsold goods including houses, cell-phones, electronic products and others. There is a growing number of companies that are folding up or going bankrupt. As a result, there is a growing number of workers who have been kicked out of work.

Over the past five years, the growth of the China economy has been moderately slowing down (measured in gross domestic product) from 7.7% (in 2012), to 7.6% (2013), to 7.3% (2014) and 6.9% last year, the lowest since 1990. This is expected to go down further to 6.5% this year.

Even if the China economy slowdown is moderate, this has profound effects on many economies that are tightly bound to it. In 2012, China has become the biggest trading partner of 124

countries. (Compare this to the US which is the biggest trading partner of 76 countries.) As much as 5% of the income of US companies come from China. There are some companies such as Pizza Hut and Kentucky Fried Chicken which earn up to 50% of their income in China. Some European companies also earn 10% of their income from China.

China has been relentlessly defending the value of the yuan against the dollar so that it continues to dominate the export market. From September 2014, China has poured \$443 billion to prevent the yuan from undergoing large fluctuations.

Despite the size of the Chinese economy, it cannot serve for long as the "machine" that will run the international capitalist system and push it towards recovery and re-activation. On the contrary, the overheating of the China machine contributes to aggravating the crisis of overproduction across the country. On the other hand, the prolonged depression of the global capitalist system has slowed down China and is pulling it into a crisis of overproduction. AB

Farmers demand free irrigation

FARMERS from Tarlac, Nueva Ecija, Bulacan and Isabela rallied in front of the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) in Quezon City last January 21 to demand free irrigation services for farmers. The protest action was led by the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP).

According to the KMP, farmers are commonly made to pay an annual P4,500 in irrigation service fees (ISF) or an amount equal to five cavans of palay per hectare with exorbitant interests. Farmers are required to pay ISF to the Irrigators Association (IA) even if they have not received any water or even if there is no irrigation in their area.

"Given the strategic importance of irrigation in pursuing sustained agricultural development, rice self-sufficiency, food security, and the upliftment of Filipino farmers' welfare, it is the obligation of the government to provide free irrigation services," asserted KMP chair Rafael Mariano.

Instead of providing subsidies to irrigation, what the

Aquino regime is funding are big dam projects such as the Balog-Balog Multipurpose Dam Project in Tarlac that will benefit the Hacienda Luisita of the Aquino-Cojuangcos and the Jalaur Multipurpose Dam Project in Iloilo that is being pushed by Franklin Drilon, Aquino's partymate in the Liberal Party.

The large irrigation fees that raise the costs of production are burdensome to the peasants. Up to 80% of the monies being collected by the NIA are farmers' debt.

The KMP also denounced the anomalies at the NIA. It questioned the severalfold increase in the NIA budget from P2.4 billion in 2014 to P28.7 billion in 2015 and P32.7 billion this year. Last year, it only completed 1,905 hectares in irrigation works out of a target of 7,502 hectares and repaired 8,609 hectares out of a target of 24,541 hectares.

The demand for free irrigation services has become more urgent in the face of droughts brought about by the El Niño phenomenon. AB