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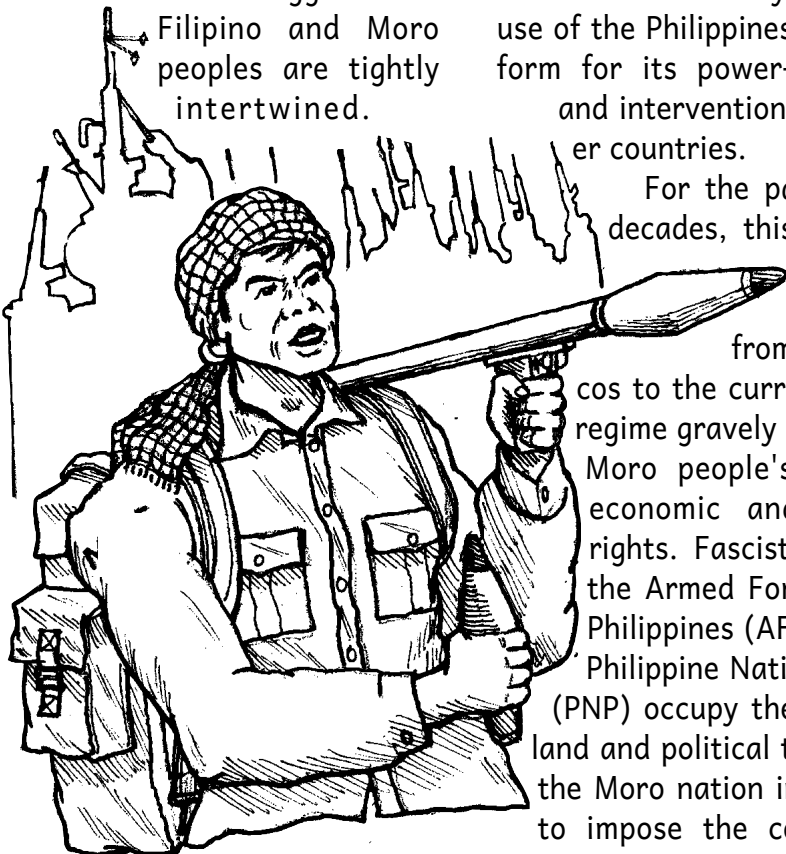
Editorial

Support the Moro struggle against the Aquino regime's duplicity

The Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) and the national-democratic revolutionary forces are among the most ardent advocates of the Moro people's struggle for their right to national self-determination.

The Program for a People's Democratic Revolution supports the struggle of national minorities against chauvinism and oppression and recognizes their aspirations for autonomy and their right to secede from the ruling oppressive state. This support is also unequivocally contained in the 12-Point Program of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP).

The struggle of the Filipino and Moro peoples are tightly intertwined.



Both of them resist the same reactionary state that oppresses and exploits the toiling masses. As an instrument of US imperialism, the Philippine puppet reactionary state tramples on the rights of the Filipino people to national liberation in allowing American and foreign big companies to exploit the Filipino nation's natural resources. It further allows the US military to interfere, dominate and freely operate in the country and make use of the Philippines as a platform for its power-projection and interventionism in other countries.

For the past several decades, this same reactionary state, from the Marcos to the current Aquino regime gravely abused the Moro people's political, economic and cultural rights. Fascist troops of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and the Philippine National Police (PNP) occupy the ancestral land and political territory of the Moro nation in an effort to impose the constitution

and political power of the reactionary state upon the Moro people.

The violent suppression of the Moro people has sparked their armed resistance throughout history. They largely succeeded in resisting over three centuries of Spanish colonialism. Their aspiration for self-determination was, however, more effectively suppressed with the supplanting of the Spanish colonialists by the new US colonial power. Using its bigger, more economically and technologically advanced capability, US imperialism, and later, its puppet reactionary state were eventually able to completely dominate the Moro homeland.

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It was only through persistent revolutionary armed struggle since the 1970s that the Moro people were able to defend themselves, gain recognition for their struggle for self-determination and provide it a more national form. The Maguindanao, Maranao, Tausog, Samal, Yakan and other Moro groups united under the banner of armed struggle. Since the start of their national armed revolution, the revolutionary movement has been one with the Moro people in advancing their struggle for their right to national self-determination.

For the past four decades, the CPP and the revolutionary forces have been working with the various organizations of the Moro people that uphold and fight for their revolutionary cause. In the 1970s, the CPP and the New People's Army (NPA) waged revolutionary armed struggle parallel to the armed resistance waged by the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) until the latter acceded to the constitution of the reac-

tionary government in the 1976 Tripoli Agreement and eventually capitulated completely to the Ramos regime.

Since the 1990s, the revolutionary forces under the NDFP have maintained felicitous relations with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) in recognition of its repudiation of the MNLF's capitulation to the oppressive Manila government in 1996 and its revolutionary assertion of the Moro people's aspirations for national self-determination.

In 1998, the NDFP and the MILF signed an agreement of mutual understanding declaring mutual support for the struggle for self-determination of the Moro people and the struggle for national and social liberation of the Filipino people. Forces of the NDFP and MILF have since then extended mutual assistance and exchanged experiences in confronting a common enemy.

The revolutionary movement considers the MILF's negotiations with the Government of


the Philippines and its recent signing of the Framework Agreement which outlines the formation of the Bangsamoro Government as part of the Moro people's continuing efforts to assert their rights.

Although there is general recognition for the aspirations of the Moro people to set up their own nation and government, the greater part of the agreement is lopsided in favor of the reactionary state and maintaining the latter's dominance over the Moro people.

The agreement is fraught with many dangers and traps that will surely be at the center of continuing conflict when the MILF and the GPH meet again to negotiate. The negotiations have a long way to go before a final agreement can be forged between the MILF and the Aquino government. Among the points to be grappled with is the key issue of the disposition of the MILF's Bangsamoro Islamic Armed Forces (BIAF) which the reactionary state has long wanted to disarm. A related issue is whether the Bangsamoro government will be given control over the armed military forces and police in their territory, and even over the direction of their economy and the exploitation of natural resources within the Bangsamoro lands.

The CPP calls on the Filipino and Moro peoples to rally around the cause of Moro self-determination and support efforts by the representatives of the Moro people to resist the duplicity and maneuvers of the Aquino regime and reactionary state in the course of the negotiations. The CPP trusts that the Moro revolutionary forces will continue to steadfastly hold on to the victories that they have gained through armed resistance.

AB

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Lopsided in favor of GPH

The US-Aquino regime whipped up a media storm during the signing by the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) and the Government of the Philippines (GPH) peace panels of the Framework Agreement on October 15. Through the agreement, the Aquino regime ostensibly recognized the Moro people's desire for an autonomous region to realize their aspirations for self-governance. The autonomous region will be called "Bangsamoro."

The statements read that day all created the impression that peace and the termination of the armed conflict between the GPH and MILF were now within reach. The media hype surrounding the signing ceremony served as a temporary smokescreen obscuring the Filipino people's basic problems such as the series of price hikes of oil and other leading commodities, the demolition of urban poor communities, the absence of genuine land reform and national industrialization and US military intervention in the Philippines.

The Framework Agreement, however, is utterly lopsided in favor of the GPH and poses many dangers to the Moro people's aspirations for self-determination.

The most critical issues concern the dissolution of the MILF's army (the Bangsamoro Islamic Armed Force or BIAF) and the subordination of Bangsamoro to the Aquino regime's police force.

The agreement calls for police functions to be gradually transferred from the AFP to the Bangsamoro police. But there are no clear provisions for the AFP to withdraw from Bangsamoro territory. On the other hand, the Aquino regime has made it very clear that the BIAF must be dismantled once the final agreement is forged in three years.

The division of Bangsamoro

resources still has to be agreed upon. There is a provision for the Bangsamoro government to receive a "just and equitable" share of the territory's natural resources. But there is serious danger that the Bangsamoro government will not be given the chance to determine its own economic policies and priorities apart from those of the dominant semicolonial and semifeudal system in the Philippines.

The Aquino regime and big foreign companies can be expected to come in for the kill and push projects and programs that would pave the way for the entry of big foreign businesses. Oil and mining giants have long been drooling over Liguasan Marsh, which has very rich oil and mineral deposits. In fact, as far back as 2008, and again in 2009, high-ranking US Embassy officials met with the MILF to pledge support for the peace talks then under the Arroyo regime. One of the reasons for the US' keen interest in seeing a peace agreement forged between the MILF and the Aquino government is its desire to achieve the stability being sought by foreign banks, agencies and multinational companies that would like to invest in Bangsamoro territory.

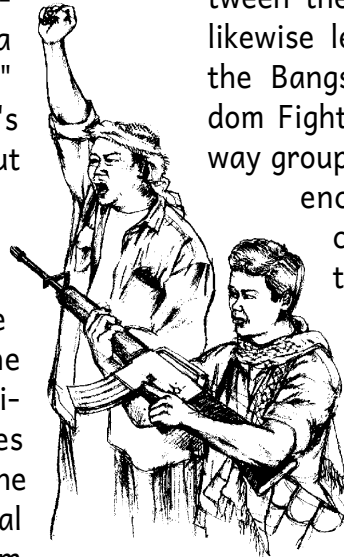
In any case, none of the pro-

visions of the final agreement can be realized unless they are in accordance with the GPH constitution. The Arroyo regime had already tried in 2008 to create what it then called the Bangsamoro Juridical Entity (BJE) but the plan was shot down by the Supreme Court which declared it unconstitutional. The Arroyo regime eventually shelved the BJE and armed clashes once more erupted between the AFP and BIAF. This likewise led to the creation of the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF), a breakaway group that declared its disenchantment over the course the peace negotiations were taking. The BIFF charged that the AFP continued to attack Moro communities despite the existence of a ceasefire agreement.

At present, the formation of the Transition Commission which is tasked with creating Bangsamoro step by step is dependent on the issuance of an Executive Order by Aquino and funds to be released by his regime. The Aquino regime intends to tightly control the entire process to ensure that the Government of the Philippines and its foreign master maintain their advantage and the interests of the Moro people remain disadvantaged.

Because of these provisions in the Framework Agreement that pose grave dangers to the MILF and the Moro people, it is the coming negotiations that will determine whether the Moro people will indeed achieve genuine autonomy and self-determination through the final agreement, or whether the bases for the Moro people's armed resistance will persist.

AB



Lessons from the antifeudal struggle in Eastern Visayas

This is the second of a two-part article featuring the antifeudal struggles launched by the revolutionary peasant movement in Eastern Visayas (EV) from July-December 2011. The first article came out in Ang Bayan's October 7 issue.

Of equal importance to the economic gains achieved in the antifeudal struggles were the political and organizational advances attained by the peasantry. These victories strengthened the democratic power of the masses.

Raising the masses' capability to use their democratic strength enables them to sustain and further advance their economic gains and thwart the challenges that come their way in the never-ending process of class struggle.

In the months that the antifeudal struggles gained momentum in a number of guerrilla fronts in EV, members of mass organizations were able to raise their political consciousness through intensive education, propaganda and cultural activities.

The membership of revolutionary mass organizations increased significantly. In the five months that the antifeudal struggle was launched in one front, the membership of the Pambansang Katipunan ng mga Magbubukid (PKM) grew by 45%, that of the Makabayang Kilusan ng Bagong Kababaihan by 48% and the Kabataang Makabayan by 39%.

All local Party branches were consolidated and their membership grew by 17%. The guerrilla platoon that directly assisted in the antifeudal struggles enjoyed a 56% boost in the number of Red fighters.

The enduring solidarity and solid grasp of the principles,

policies, tactics and methods that guided the successful antifeudal struggle were likewise important requisites.

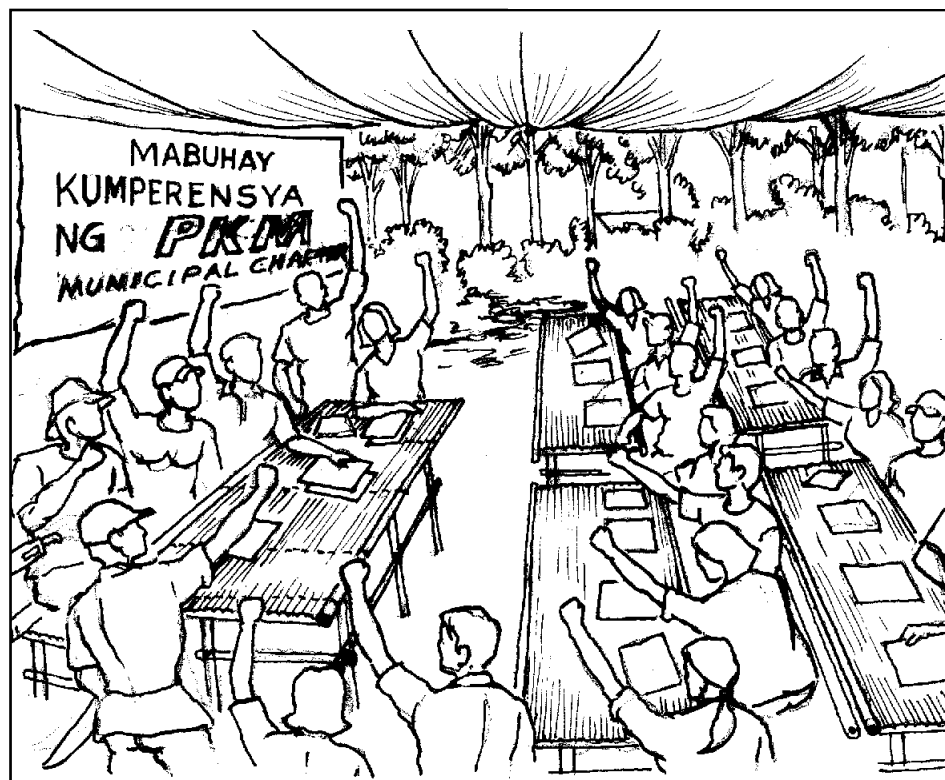
Analysis and investigation. One should never fight a battle without sufficient preparation. The most important part of preparing for the antifeudal struggle was the conduct of Social Investigation and Class Analysis (SICA). Through the SICA, the participants were able to deepen their understanding of the prevailing exploitative relations in the area, identify who among the villagers were mobilizable and who should be the target of struggle. The SICA made it possible to form a firm basis for the antifeudal struggle.

Efforts must be made to sum-up the results of the SICA at the inter-barrio or municipal level at the minimum to be able to come up with a broader and

deeper peasant situationer in the area, know how the various issues are linked and identify the breadth and base of operations of the targets of antifeudal mobilization. To do this quickly, the use of standardized and simple charts and particular guidelines that could easily be followed even by comrades in the locality were a great help.

Mobilizing and training the masses in conducting the SICA was the way to ensure the breadth, depth and accuracy of the results. The NPA and the mass organizations cooperated in this endeavor. Mass meetings were held to present and analyze the data collected. The SICA also contributed significantly in a separate investigation conducted to come up with case studies of exploitative relations of production. The case studies further confirmed the appropriateness of the peasants' demands.

The SICA was also useful in instituting measures within the mass organizations to determine whether the leadership was already being dominated by the upper classes and whether everyone in the village who be-



longed to the basic strata of the peasantry had already been organized.

Party leadership. The anti-feudal campaign proved that it was not enough to issue a general call and rely on the initiative of fledgling cadres to launch the struggle. Since the cadres and members of the basic Party units in the people's army or barrio hardly had any experience in launching mass struggles, it became crucial for the more experienced cadres to join them in the actual planning and conduct of the campaign. They coordinated directly with the CPP Section Committee and branch to assist and guide the new cadres and activists in drafting comprehensive and detailed plans, correctly analyze matters and resolve the various issues involved in the antifeudal mobilization.

It is necessary to promptly implement the points agreed upon in the negotiations, while the issues remain current and the masses are active and their morale is high. It is in the actual implementation that the economic gains are fully realized, and this constitutes half the burden in the task of advancing the antifeudal struggle.

It is also important to conduct regular assessments of every significant part of the struggle in order to promptly unite on the analysis and the measures needed to address problems. One example are appeals from those who have been classified as landlords. If their complaints are not patiently addressed forthwith, their comments will become a source of discord.

Experience has proven that actual participation in the entire campaign can serve as a big opportunity to train an entire NPA guerrilla platoon or PKM munic-



ipal chapter. Allotting enough time to train NPA forces and the PKM leadership must be made part of the equation. Conducting dry runs of the actual negotiations and the use of simplified and detailed implementing guidelines also helped.

Most of all, the entire experience must be summed-up for everyone to unite politically and to propagate the lessons that have been learned.

Forming and strengthening the PKM and other barrio organizations. Preparing the masses is not simply a matter of uniting on the issues and demands, but of raising their overall level of political consciousness.

It is crucial for them to grasp the exploitative relations they find themselves in as a class in order for them to embrace the antifeudal struggle, determinedly unite and take action to resist their exploitation and oppression. This necessitates launching a creative and sustained education and propaganda campaign among the basic masses, the middle classes and even among the ranks of enlightened landlords.

Consolidating and expanding the peasant mass organizations can be done effectively by mobilizing them for class struggle. On the other hand, their organization must also be prepared

comprehensively in order to forge a powerful force for the antifeudal struggle, and for people's war as a whole. Among the necessary steps to take is to ensure that they actually lead the struggle through their class organization, the PKM. Whether at the inter-barrio/municipal or village level, the PKM is the correct machinery.

The greater part of agrarian revolution therefore involves putting the PKM in shape. No less than having the peasants launch and take responsibility in leading the struggle against oppression and exploitation will impel the invigoration of mass organizing for the PKM. By steeling its members in the furnace of antifeudal struggles, the PKM's class standpoint is strengthened and developed for the interest of the basic and most oppressed strata of the peasantry.

As crucial as being prepared is using the correct tactics to mobilize the peasantry and achieve success. Mobilizing at the municipal and inter-barrio level, and presenting a package of demands provide greater advantage in training the peasantry for higher levels of leadership. At that level of coordination, discussions are meatier and the natural talents and creativity of peasant leaders emerge.

Identifying class enemies and the use of united front tactics. It was important to have used the form of struggle and confrontation appropriate to the character of the target to be confronted. Since most of the targets were enlightened landlords, it was fitting to use negotiations as the form of struggle.

The targets were patiently convinced. The peasants presented case studies to show the reasonableness and justness of

their demands. The package of issues and demands was likewise calculated so as not to be too overwhelming in order to guarantee success and make the negotiations serve as a tool for raising the PKM's level of consolidation.

It was correct not to lump together as targets the rich peasants and the other middle strata in the struggle to reduce land rent and instead focus on the landlords. This enabled the peasantry to forge an antifeudal united front in the area.

Shortcomings in tacticizing were traced to a poor grasp of the masses' concrete conditions in the area and of the basic policies that guide the conduct of agrarian revolution.

The peasants were likewise able to anticipate the possible counter-demands and reactions of the targets and plan accordingly. When negotiations hit an impasse, the peasants did not force the issue. Rather, a few minutes or hours of recess was called to enable the negotiators to consult each other on how to resolve the problem. The presence of a cadre who could closely monitor the course of the discussions is important, even if he or she is not directly involved in the struggle.

Coping with enemy attacks. Another important lesson learned in one of the guerrilla fronts is that antifeudal struggles can be pursued even in the face of military operations. At times, the preparations had to be done in secret because of the difficult situation.

The peasants took on most of the tasks and negotiations were conducted before or after every enemy operation which usually lasted a week. They asked help from the militia unit and the village councils in securing the area while the negotiations were going on.

It is correct to consider anti-feudal struggles as part of the overall tactics of confronting Oplan Bayanihan. AB

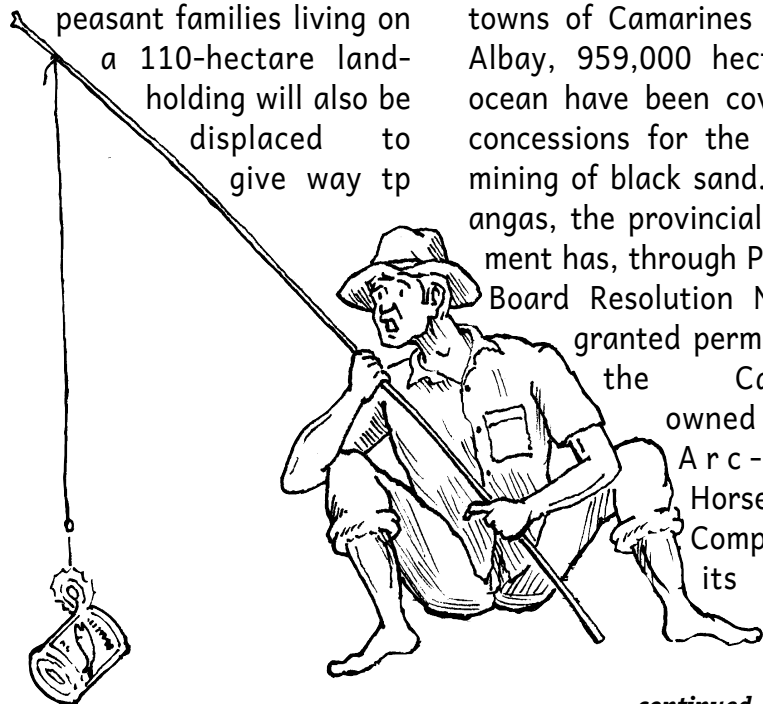
Ravaging the livelihood of poor fisherfolk

The situation of small fisherfolk in the Philippines has gone from bad to worse. They have been badgered by "development projects," eco-tourism and offshore mining funded by the national and local governments in collaboration with foreign businessmen.

In Iloilo City, some 10,000 fisherfolk and urban poor families living along the banks of the Iloilo River are set to be evicted to give way to an eco-tourism projects called Esplanade. In Cordova, Cebu, more than 5,000 poor fisherfolk and peasant families living on a 110-hectare land-holding will also be displaced to give way to

an ecozone free port area and international airport. The government likewise plans to use 3,500 hectares of shoreline and mangrove forest in Cordova if not for the people's fierce resistance.

In several towns of Camarines Sur and Albay, 959,000 hectares of ocean have been covered by concessions for the offshore mining of black sand. In Batangas, the provincial government has, through Provincial Board Resolution No. 253, granted permission to the Canadian-owned Asian Arc-Crazy Horse Mining Company and its subsidiary Ku-



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Fund for counterrevolution

The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) is currently implementing a counterinsurgency program with the clear purpose of suppressing the fisherfolks' opposition to destructive government projects. BFAR has allotted up to ₱243 of its budget for counterinsurgency operations while allocating only ₱135 million for environmental protection, fisheries development and disaster preparedness. Out of the ₱243 million, ₱123 million will be poured into the Payapa at Masaganang Mamamayan (Pamana) through surveillance and intelligence operations in poor fisherfolk communities, particularly in the Bicol Region and Western Mindanao. The BFAR is required to give regular reports on Pamana to the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process. AB

makata Mining Inc. to extract gold, copper, lead and zinc in 12,000 hectares of Taysan town. The provincial government had also earlier granted an exploration permit and a Mineral Production Sharing Agreement to Mindoro Resources Ltd. (MRL) to operate on a 29,000-hectare area encompassing poor fisherfolk and peasant communities in Batangas City and the towns of San Juan, Rosario, Taysan and Lobo.

In Medellin, Cebu, the government has sold the 209-hectare island village of Gibitngil to private businessmen as a means of enticing foreigners and locals to invest in the tourism industry. In Bohol, the government plans to reclaim land to create two islands. The plans have been stymied after objections from residents, local environmentalists and the Panglao Island local government.

The Aquino government has already approved

15 contracts for mining oil and gas. Most of the contracts are for the South China Sea off the coast of Palawan. There are also exploration contracts for oil and gas in Sulu, Antique, Ragay Gulf and the Visayan Sea. Offshore mining in Palawan province will cover 10 million hectares of ocean, with investors coming from the US, Europe, Japan and Australia.

The living conditions of poor fisherfolk will become more miserable due to these projects. Their incomes will plummet further. Rising expenses coupled with dwindling prices for their catch is resulting in widespread poverty and hunger. Small fisherfolk usually earn only from ₱50 to ₱150 per day. They are victims of big foreign and local capitalist fishing and of various municipal ordinances that displace them in favor of capitalist fishing or owners of resorts and other tourist enterprises. **AB**

The exemplary lives of Ka Jackson and Ka Steve

This year, two ordinary people from the peasant class were honored by the revolutionary movement because of their exemplary lives as Red fighters and cadres of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP). They were especially known for their dedication to duty. They never thought of retiring as Party cadres, despite their age and illnesses.

Ka Jackson. Jaime M. Velasco (also known as Ka Jackson or Ka Guiller) passed away at the age of 72 because of leukemia. He was born in Camalig, Albay and had eight children, including two who became Red fighters of the New People's Army (NPA).

Ka Jackson hailed from the peasantry. But he also became a worker at a logging company in the latter part of the 1970s. His work brought him to various places like Isabela and Palawan. He had a work-related accident, forcing him to leave the company. He chose to return to Albay in 1981. It was in his village that he first encountered the NPA.

He immediately joined organizing efforts in their barrio. Ka Jackson's political consciousness was quickly broadened and

consolidated due to his experiences as a worker. The need for systemic social change for the toiling masses became clear to him. After a few months, he decided to become a fulltime Red fighter. Since then, his political involvement never waned.

He assiduously performed his various tasks. In 1984, he became a member of the District Committee of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) and became the commander of the NPA unit. He later became a member of the committee administering two Party districts in Albay. He was appointed an alternate member of the CPP Regional Committee in Bicol in 1994 and eventually became a regular member. He was appointed to the Party secretariat

in Camarines Norte.

Ka Jackson had an exemplary record in his three decades of serving the people. Wherever he was assigned, he went all out in performing his duties despite the difficulties. He had to transfer his wife and children because of intense enemy harassment. He steadfastly confronted and look for an appropriate solution to the illness of one of his children who was discovered to be suffering from a congenital heart disease. He persevered in his tasks despite his own illness. He went on medical leave when his leukemia grew intolerably worse.

Ka Jackson was calm and collected, but militant and authoritative. This was how he embodied the NPA in confronting the enemy and bad elements. He had a high level of military alertness and had a keen ability to assess the military situation. He always had his firearm on his person. Never was he cornered by the enemy in any firefight. He was always able to prevail even during defensive battles.

Ka Steve. Antonio Moral Rodriguez (Ka Steve) hailed

from an upper middle peasant family in Albay. He finished high school at Republic College in Guinobatan, Albay. He belonged to a well-known and respected family.

His first contact with the NPA was in 1981 when Red fighters first operated in their barrio. He became an active youth organizer before becoming a fulltime NPA guerrilla and Party member in 1982.

He was among those assigned to the District Guerrilla Unit in 1983 and was able to join many battles. He became secretary of the Party committee in Albay in 1986. By 1994 he was appointed a member and officer of the guerrilla front. He was among those appointed to the CPP Albay Provincial Committee's Executive Committee in 1999.

He married a widow with three children. He was such a good stepfather to them that they loved him even more than their own father. They tirelessly cared for him during his lingering illness.

Ka Steve was a good speaker, instructor and propagandist. He held fast to revolutionary principles and policies. He was close to comrades and the masses. He was an excellent negotiator with class enemies. His record in the movement was flawless. He refused to be swayed by the bad practices that were prevalent when discipline became lax because of disorientation.

He suffered a mild stroke in 2006 because of his hypertension. He resumed his duties after recovering and did not leave his unit until his second stroke in 2009. He died at the age of 59 in March 2012. **AB**

Anomalies in implementing 4Ps in Northern Samar

The Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) has not brought any significant change in the economic conditions of impoverished people. In exchange for a small sum, the people are fed lies that the reactionary government has concern for and is doing something for them, even if in fact, their exploitation and oppression have worsened.

In a study conducted by the Rodante Urtal Command (New People's Army-Northern Samar), peasants enrolled with 4Ps were found to be on the losing end, especially when it was first implemented in 2009. Peasants from Catubig and Las Navas ended up losing a minimum of P900.00, the equivalent of spending transportation money and not working for one to three days just to be able to go to the capital town of Catarman to collect the money.

Worse, however, local politicians have been using 4Ps as a source of kickbacks and to advance their political interests. In particular, the Daza dynasty of Northern Samar has been taking advantage of the implementation of 4Ps.

The Rodante Urtal Command's investigation revealed that as far back as the 2010 elections, the Dazas had already used 4Ps as a means to dissimulate their electoral fraud and vote-buying. Months before the election, the distribution of cash under 4Ps was suddenly stopped. Beneficiaries were warned that they would be stricken off the list if they did not vote for the incumbents. The money was given only after the elections. The accumulated amount received by the peasants was

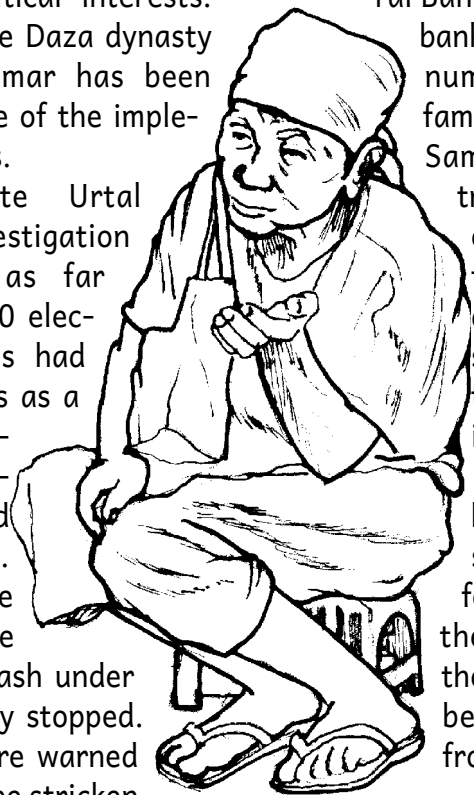
rather large, with the election winners insinuating that it was a favor from them.

At first, beneficiaries got their money from a bank in Catarman. In 2011, however, the money was given in the form of G-Cash ostensibly to make it easier on the beneficiaries. But the real beneficiary was Johnson de Asas, a businessman and one of Daza's men. De Asas owns the money transfer business in the towns of Catubig, Las Navas, Lao-ang and Palapag.

Beginning in 2012, on the other hand, the money from 4Ps has been distributed via the Rural Bank of Catubig. This bank is owned by a number of wealthy families in Northern Samar. Thus, the transfer is another political favor from the Daza dynasty to consolidate its position in the coming 2013 polls.

It is therefore hypocritical to say that 4Ps is for the poor, since the corrupt and those in power have been benefiting from it.

The peasant masses must be made aware of the fact that they are being swindled and that they must repudiate the Aquino regime's empty 4Ps program. **AB**



AFP massacres family in South Cotabato

A massacre, a case of extrajudicial killing and attempted murder, two demolitions of urban poor communities, threats against women and children and illegal arrest. These were the reports of human rights violations gathered by *Ang Bayan* in the past several weeks.

October 18. Soldiers of the 27th IB massacred the wife and two children of Daguil Capion, an antimining activist opposed to the operations of the giant Xstrata-Sagittarius Mines Inc. (SMI). According to a report received by KARAPATAN, Daguil's wife Juvy, 27, went to their farm on October 17 with her three children Pop, 13; John, 8; and Vicky, 7. Because they were not able to finish farming, they spent the night at their hut in Fayahlob, Sitio Datal-Ayong, Barangay Danlag, Tampakan, South Cotabato. At about six o'clock the next morning, elements of the 27th IB strafed the hut while the family was still asleep. After the shooting, Juvy, Pop and John were found dead while Vicky was wounded. Juvy was two months pregnant when she was slain. The three bodies were left lying out in the sun for eight hours.

Daguil was seriously wounded but was able to escape. Contrary to the 27th IB's claims, there was no exchange of fire. The military gunned down a defenseless family.

October 16. The houses of 100 families along BIR Road, Barangay Central, Quezon City were torn down allegedly to give way to a road-widening project for the Quezon City Central Business District. Two urban poor residents were arrested when they resisted the police and the demolition team.

While the demolition was go-

ing on, the residents trooped to the office of the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) to protest the demolition which they said was illegal because it was being done without a court order and notice of eviction. They likewise assailed DILG Secretary Mar Roxas for reneging on his pledge that no demolitions would be conducted in the area.

October 14. Two men aboard a motorcycle attempted to kill Daisy Ayo, a member of GABRIELA-Southern Tagalog. Ayo was able to run but she was hit in the buttocks. The first attempted killing of a woman activist in the region took place in Barangay Lucsuhin, Calatagan, Batangas.

Prior to this, Ayo was already being threatened and intimidated by the military. The victim was actively leading the struggle against the destructive mining activities in the area of Asturias Chemical Industries Inc. The company is owned by big businessmen Ramon Ang and Iñigo Zobel. Asturias Chemical Industries Inc. operates on a 35,000-hectare concession in the towns of Lobo, Rosario, Taysan, San Juan and Calatagan and in Batangas City.

October 10. Policemen arrested six residents after a violent demolition in North San Juan, Barangay Centro Agdao, Davao City. The victims were identified as Vicente Rosalada, Kim Pullido, Darwin Valliente, Primo Lopez and two minors.

Rosalada was among several residents seriously injured when elements of the Davao City Police and demolition team broke through the ranks of protesting urban poor.

Thirty-five families will be affected by plans to construct a private company in the area.

This is but the latest of a series of violent demolitions. According to the Kalipunan ng Damayang Mahihirap (KADAMAY), demolitions in various areas nationwide have claimed the lives of 11 persons under Aquino and affected up to 16,000 families.

October 5. Combined forces of the Cebu City Police Intelligence Unit and the Military Intelligence Group illegally arrested Jimmylisa Badayos, 36, and her husband Calixto Vistal, 38, in Mandaue City, Cebu.

The couple had just come from work when they were suddenly picked up by men in civilian clothes. They choked Badayos and planted a gun in her bag. The men stole her passport, ATM card, broadband stick and ₱2,300 in cash.

The military transferred Calixto after three days to the Negros Oriental Jail in Dumaguete City. He has been accused by Gen. Jose Mabanta of the Philippine Army 3rd Infantry Division of being a leader of the New People's Army (NPA) allegedly responsible for attacks in Bohol and Leyte in 1999 and 2000. Badayos, on the other hand, was accused of heading the NPA communications and technical group in Southeastern Negros.

Badayos is a member of Sons and Daughters of Desaparecidos and her father Jimmy Badayos was a victim of abduction 22 years ago. KARAPATAN has demanded Badayos' immediate release since she suffers from severe anemia and has been hospi-

talized a number of times.

September 26. Elements of the 9th ID illegally arrested and mercilessly killed Antonio "Ka Eddie" Perelonia not far from his house in Barangay Teongson, Ligao City. Ka Eddie, a 63-year old Red fighter was undergoing treatment for diabetes, hypertension and a heart ailment and was unarmed when arrested. The 9th ID claims that he was killed in an encounter.

There have been 35 victims of extrajudicial killing by the 9th ID from June 2010 to September 2012.

September-October. The military in Davao City harassed Anlyn Pesoro and Niza Cabonillas because they were wives of Red fighters.

Pesoro was summoned by the 69th IB ostensibly to arrange for her husband's surrender. On the other hand, Cabonillas, a resident of Fatima Village, Paquibato District, said that whenever her children go to school, soldiers point to them, saying, "they're an NPA family." The children have since been afraid to go to school.

Earlier, Lyn-lyn Genita and Irish Bregole, both residents of Pandaitan, Paquibato District and wives of Red fighters were likewise intimidated and interrogated by elements of the 69th IB's Peace and Development Team. **AB**

AFP arrests, tortures civilian, tags him as NDFP leader

Elements of the 2nd ID and various intelligence agencies and military and police units illegally arrested and mercilessly beat up an ordinary civilian after he was mistaken for a cadre of the Communist Party of the Philippines.

Rolly Panesa, 48, was arrested at around 11:30 p.m. in front of the Ministop Convenience Store at the corner of Aurora Blvd. and Anonas St. in Quezon City. Arrested with him were his wife Maritez Chioco, their son Conierey and the latter's wife. Panesa works for Megaforce Security and is a resident of F. Castillo St., Project 4, Quezon City. He is assigned at the ACP Compound in Eastwood, Quezon City.

Even if Panesa's arrest was a clear case of mistaken identity, AFP Southern Luzon Command chief Maj. Gen. Alan Luga went ahead and announced that the man they had arrested was "Benjamin Mendoza," allegedly the secretary of the CPP Regional Committee in Southern Tagalog and one of the consultants of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP). The military merely wanted to cover up its snafu and collect the ₱5.6 million reward for "Mendoza's" capture. General Luga also wants to create the impression that the AFP is succeeding in its objective of crushing the revolutionary movement in Southern Tagalog.

Meanwhile, KARAPATAN showed pictures of Panesa's face in a press conference on October 17, showing clear marks of the torture he suffered in the hands of the military. He has been slapped with a trumped-up case of rebellion. **AB**

Anakbayan assails Akbayan Partylist

Members of Anakbayan-National Capital Region (Anakbayan-NCR) barged into a press conference being held by Akbayan Partylist on October 16 in Ermita, Manila to demand Akbayan's disqualification from the partylist elections.

Anakbayan-NCR said that Akbayan did not deserve to be among the parties representing the poor and marginalized sectors of society because it was clearly close to Malacañang. The Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting also supported the call for Akbayan and the Black and White Movement's disqualification in the 2013 partylist elections because officers and members of these groups had been appointed to high-ranking positions in the Aquino government.

Among the ranking officers of Akbayan now ensconced in the Aquino administration are Ronald Llamas, former Akbayan president and now Presidential Adviser on Political Affairs; Loretta Ann Rosales, another former Akbayan president and now chief of the Commission on Human Rights; Joel Rocamora, also a former Akbayan president and now head of the National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC); Percival Cendena, commissioner-at-large of the National Youth Commission; and Mario Aguho, board member of the Government Service Insurance System.

Akbayan also has nominees for the 2013 elections who are currently holding government positions such as Barry Gutierrez, 2nd nominee and Malacañang's Undersecretary for Political Affairs; and Angelina Ludovice-Katoh, 3rd nominee and currently a commissioner at the Presidential Commission for the Urban Poor.

Anakbayan also assailed Akbayan's "Red-baiting" where activists are maliciously linked to the armed revolutionary movement. Such "Red-baiting" usually took place before the victim became a target of extrajudicial killing. One such victim was Cris Hugo, regional co-

ordinator of the League of Filipino Students-Bicol who was killed in 2006.

Meanwhile, anomalies involving Akbayan as a co-conspirator of the Aquino regime have begun to emerge. Rocamora is currently finding it difficult to explain to the Commission on Audit why the NAPC hired 81 contractual employees and 19 consultants

in 2011. Instead of maximizing its fulltime staff, the NAPC also hired an additional 49 part-time employees as "documentors, transcribers, researchers and facilitators."

These additional employees were paid ₱27.97 million from the NAPC's budget for "maintenance and other operating expenses." **AB**

Activists to resist attempts to disqualify BM, Anakpawis

VARIOUS sectors are set to resist a decision by the Commission on Elections (Comelec) not to allow multisectoral parties in the partylist elections.

The Comelec announcement that it would allow only sectoral representation will pave the way for the disqualification of genuine partylist groups like Bayan Muna (BM) and Anakpawis, which represent two or more poor sectors.

Former Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo who represented BM for three terms said Bayan Muna is composed of various poor sectors and is recognized by the partylist law, while Anakpawis comprises workers, peasants and urban poor.

ACT Teachers' Partylist Rep. Antonio Tinio said it was sheer foolishness to include Bayan Muna and Anakpawis on the Comelec's list of disqualified parties, such as Ako Bicol and many others. Ako Bicol was disqualified allegedly because there were other lawmakers already representing the Bicol Region. It topped the partylist election in 2010 and won three seats at the Lower House.

No one could be poorer than the constituents of parties like Bayan Muna and Anakpawis. Even the representatives of these two parties are from the unrepresented and poorest sectors.

According to the clean elections advocate Kontra Daya, the Comelec's plan to purge fake partylist groups should not be derailed by disqualifying legitimate groups that represent various sectors. Kontra Daya convener Fr. Joe Dizon said that only groups that do now truly represent the poor and unrepresented in Congress should be removed, as stated in Republic Act 7941 or the Partylist System Act and Jurisprudence. **AB**

CPP slams plans to return Subic military facility to US

The Communist Party of the Philippines strongly condemned plans by the Aquino regime to allow the growing number of US military troops involved in various operations in the Philippines to use anew the facilities of the former Subic Naval Base.

Executive Director Edilberto Adan of the Visiting Forces Commission has confirmed plans to add to the number of joint military exercise and undertake steps to prepare Subic International Airport to become a military airport for the use of US troops.

Subic Naval Base was one of the biggest US military bases in the Philippines until the early 1990s. It serviced US submarines and warships. Strong mass protests against the US military bases prompted the Senate in 1991 not to renew the 1946 Military Bases Agreement. Subic Naval Base and other US bases, camps and facilities were returned to the Philippines as a result. Under the Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA) signed in 1998, however, US submarines and warships have been able to dock once more at Subic.

Giving US military troops access to the facilities at Subic was one of the items agreed upon by the US and Aquino governments at the Strategic Defense Dialogue last January. Such plans will inevitably lead to the renewed dominance of US military bases in the country.

Meanwhile, the CPP likewise assailed the docking at Subic of another US submarine, the USS Olympia. It is the fifth US war vessel to dock in Manila and Subic in two months. Since August, the USS North Carolina and the USS Hawaii, both nuclear-powered attack submarines and the warships USS Milius and USS Frank Cable have docked in the Philippines. The USS George Washington, one of the US' biggest warships is set to dock at Subic on October 24.

The CPP also lambasted the arrival of more than 2,000 US troops to join the Philippine Amphibious Landing Exercise along with 1,600 AFP soldiers from October 8-18.

The frequent dockings of US warships in the Philippines strengthens the US military presence and intervention in the Asia-Pacific region. In connivance with the Aquino government, the US has been using the Philippines as a launching base for its interventionist operations. **AB**

2-tiered system, a new attack on wages

The US-Aquino regime is now enforcing the insidious 2-tier wage system (2TWS) in 11 regions in the Philippines. Under the 2TWS, already low minimum wages will be replaced by even lower wage standards. Estimates put the average reduction in wages at 30% at the least. The 2TWS forms part of Aquino's program to attract foreign investors by further slashing labor costs.

Aquino was expectedly praised by businessmen, among them the American Chamber of Commerce. But he has earned opprobrium from the working class. They know full well that the 2TWS will only further pull wages down and must be thoroughly opposed by all Filipino workers. The struggle against the 2TWS is part of the struggle for a national minimum wage, a just wage increase for all workers and sufficient compensation for their work hours.

The 2TWS is a direct attack on the rights of workers for decent wages and minimum wage regulation and for collective bargaining. It worsens the effect of the regionalization of wages and the wage inequalities between regulars and contractuels, old and new workers and those working in big and small enterprises. It gives capitalists free rein to pay wages that are even lower than the current minimum and further undermine the ability of unions to represent workers in negotiations.

In 1989, the reactionary state dismantled the national wage by approving the Wage Regionalization Act (RA 6727). The law diffused the workers' nationwide strength by granting Regional Wage Boards the authority to determine minimum wages. Wage hikes were limited to one a year. For more than a decade since, minimum wages were hardly raised, with only minimal adjustments in the Cost

of Living Allowance (COLA). The real value of wages has continued to plummet in the last 22 years.

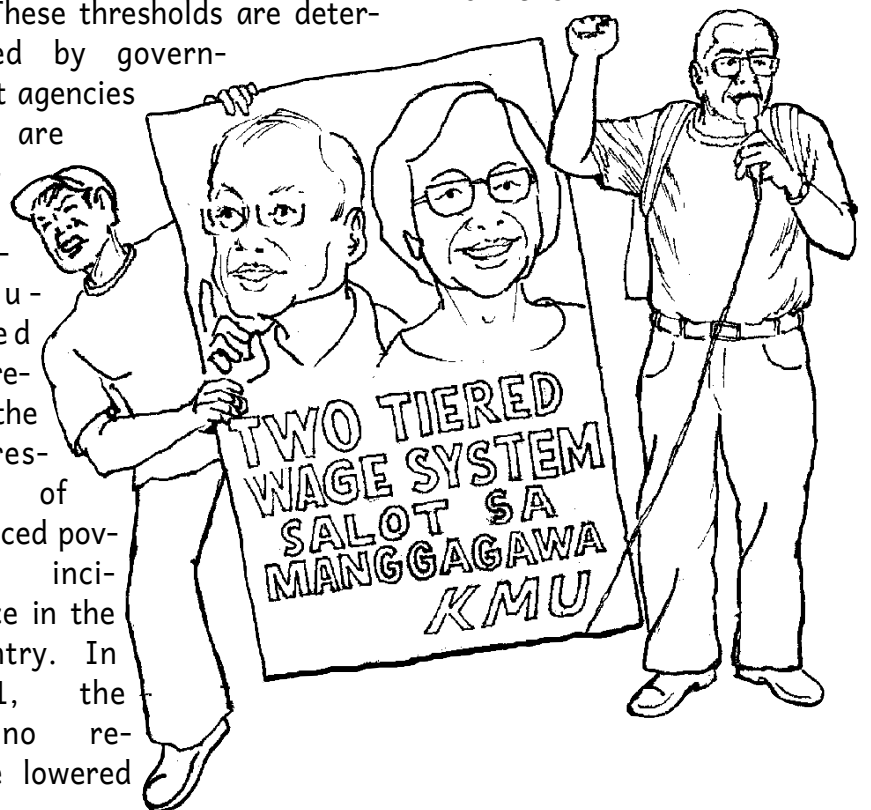
Regionalizing the determination of minimum wages has caused untold oppression to the workers. Now this will be worsened by the 2TWS. In essence, the new wage scheme dismantles the minimum wage. Under the 2TWS, wages and any wage increases are determined through two methods. The first level, called the "floor wage" is based on the "poverty threshold" for every region. The poverty threshold is the minimum income needed by a family for it to be classified above the impoverished sectors. The amount includes a minimum for food and other needs like education, water, electricity and house rent.

These thresholds are determined by government agencies and are often manipulated to create the impression of reduced poverty incidence in the country. In 2011, the Aquino regime lowered

the food threshold from P52 per day to P46 per day by arbitrarily substituting cheaper food items and removing certain items (such as milk) from the food bundle.

The second wage level is based on the workers' productivity in a company or industry line. It is the company that determines productivity based on its own assessment of its workers. Because different factories have different productivity levels, depending on type, size, industry line and other factors, companies can easily come up with arbitrary figures. Worse, productivity-based wage increases are not guaranteed since they are voluntary. They do not become part of the basic pay and are not considered in calculating benefits.

Through the 2TWS, the minimum wage becomes irrelevant. It intensifies labor flexibilization. Capitalists can keep technology backward while raising workers' quotas in order to raise production. The entire scheme is in line with the labor contractualization policy, where capitalists can pay new contractual workers



wages lower than those received by regular workers.

The 2TWS is already being implemented in CALABARZON (Cavite-Laguna-Batangas-Rizal-Quezon) and the National Capital Region (NCR) even if the Wage Regionalization Act has not yet been formally revoked.

It was first tried on an experimental basis in CALABARZON through a memorandum order issued by the Regional Wage Board in May that pegged the floor wage at ₱255 for the next five years, based on the region's poverty threshold instead of the inflation rate. Only workers receiving less than ₱255 daily are entitled to pay hikes. Workers receiving the regional minimum wage of ₱377 per day will be banned from enjoying any addition to their current pay. The order, in effect, was a cunning way of imposing a five-year moratorium on wage increases.

In the NCR, the 2TWS was able to slip through the cracks through an order by the Regional Wage Board setting a ₱259 daily floor wage for businesses with not more than ₱3 million in capital (the so-called Barangay Micro Business Enterprise or BMBE). As in CALABARZON, the NCR floor wage is also based on the region's poverty threshold. The NCR Wage Board claims that this redounds to the advantage of workers in the BMBE because such enterprises are exempt from the minimum wage requirement. Nonetheless, the ₱259 floor wage is a long way off from the regional minimum wage of ₱426 per day.

The 2TWS is set to be implemented nationwide by 2013. **AB**

Chavez wins anew in Venezuela

For the third time, Hugo Chavez won as president of Venezuela in elections held October 7. Chavez garnered 55% of the votes, defeating the US-supported candidate Henrique Capriles Radoski. More than 80% of the electorate voted in the polls.

Chavez, an anti-imperialist, has led Venezuela since 1999. The Chavez government boasts of having implemented new social policies addressing the needs of the poor. For instance, the government constructed 250,000 new housing units in the past few years. Minimum wages, which rose 30%, are now the highest in Latin America. Unemployment was reduced from 12% in 1998 to 6.5% in 2010. Retirees now receive bigger pensions. The government continues to provide free health services and education, raising literacy rates by 99.6%. Poverty incidence has been reduced by almost 50% since 1999.

The robust and widespread support enjoyed by President Chavez is due to his strong determination to assert the country's national sovereignty against US domination. Since 1999, more than 1,000 foreign companies have been nationalized, among them local branches of US companies like Goldman Sachs and Bank of America. Also, through the Hydrocarbon Law of April 2001, the government has effectively been nationalizing the oil industry.

Chavez' anti-imperialism is part of the Bolivarian Movement, an anti-imperialist movement resisting US domination over countries in Latin America. Chavez also maintains friendly relations with countries that the US is hostile to, like China and Iran.

Chavez has thus earned the ire of the US government, which has tried time and again to oust him from power. The US unabashedly supports anti-Chavez parties such as Primero Justicia. The party, which receives \$40 million annually, is the biggest group bankrolled by the US in Latin America. The US also supported a failed coup against Chavez in 2002. **AB**