

ANG

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Pinapatnubayan ng Marxismo-Leninismo-Maoismo

Bayan

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Editorial

Intensify political struggles and the national-democratic propaganda movement

The Filipino people are fed up with Aquino's lies and false promises of change which they have been hearing for the past three years. As time passes, his "righteous path" and "clean governance" shibboleths repeated ad nauseam are being exposed as empty slogans. His "kayo ang boss ko" (you are my boss) is pure blarney. Obviously, Aquino's real bosses are his friends in big business, foreign capitalists and the US government and military.

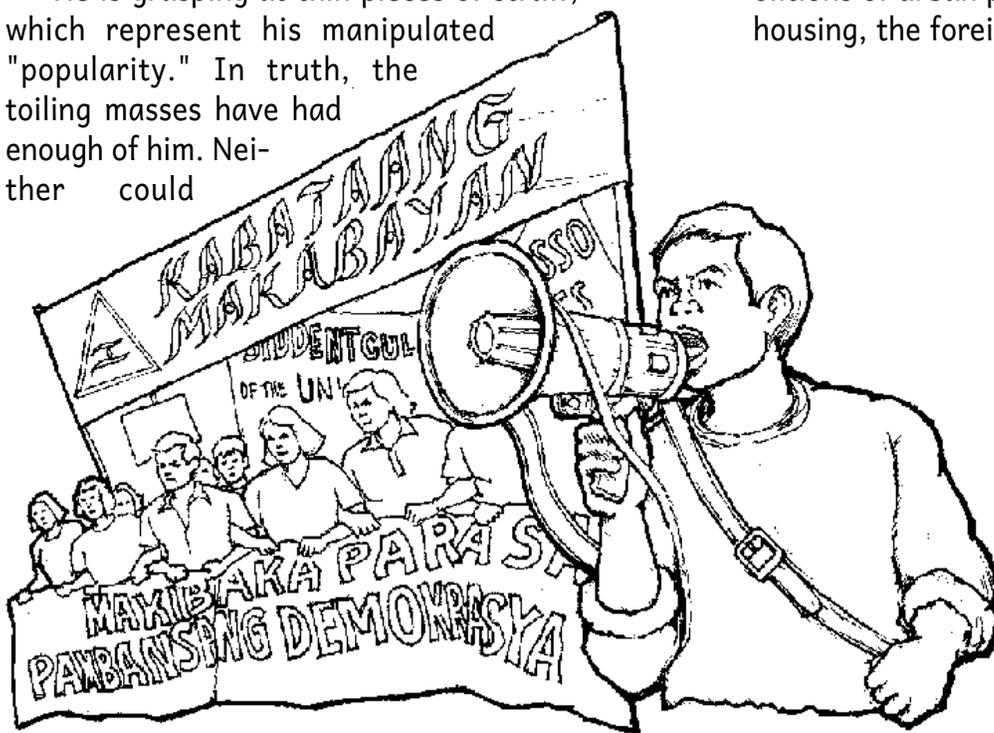
It is plain to see that the solution to poverty, hunger and the exploitation and oppression of the toiling masses and the petty bourgeoisie lies neither in Aquino nor in his florid but empty speeches. No matter how much gimmickry, spectacle or tales about the "good news" Aquino resorts to, he can never conceal the real conditions of the people.

He is grasping at thin pieces of straw, which represent his manipulated "popularity." In truth, the toiling masses have had enough of him. Neither could

Aquino inveigle the middle strata in the face of mounting violations of human rights, his extreme servility to the US, abuse of political power, corruption and crime. Fully aware of all this, Aquino has been intensifying the campaign of suppression against the people's democratic struggles.

The people must confront Aquino's remaining three years in power with stepped-up political struggles. They must hold the Aquino regime accountable for its transgressions and crimes against the people. They must muster their power by organizing and through collective action.

Conditions are exceedingly favorable for massively arousing and mobilizing the people on the basis of resisting incessant oil price hikes, added taxes, wage freezes, deteriorating and more costly health and education services, widespread demolitions of urban poor communities, lack of decent housing, the foreign plunder of the country's min-



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eral resources, repression and human rights abuses, landgrabbing, the neglect of calamity victims, the surrender of the nation's sovereignty and kowtowing to the US' every command.

The Filipino people must train their anger on the Aquino regime, demand retribution, shake it to its very foundations and work for its early demise. The intensification of political struggles in the cities will likewise contribute to strengthening the armed struggle in the countryside.

THE Party and the revolutionary forces must lead the intensification of the people's political movements and struggles. Strengthening the mass movement in the cities is among the most important political requisites for bringing the people's war to the threshold of the strategic stalemate.

Let us use the commemoration of the 43rd anniversary of the First Quarter Storm of 1970 to recall the lessons of strengthening the revolutionary and

democratic mass movement in the cities.

Just as the three-month surge in the mass movement in 1970 played a role in building the foundations of the people's war, strengthening and

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Hundreds of thousands were mobilized from January to March 1970 in gigantic protest actions that thundered from Metro Manila towards other ur-

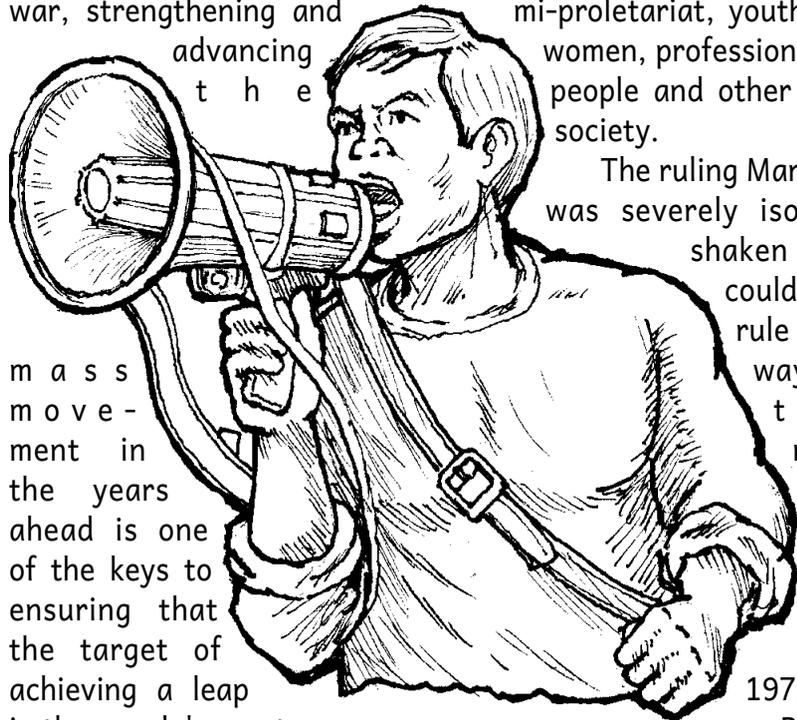
ban centers nationwide. This was the result of years of arousing the people, conducting persevering propaganda and education work and organizing among the ranks of workers, semi-proletariat, youth-students, women, professionals, church people and other sectors of society.

The ruling Marcos regime was severely isolated and shaken until it could no longer rule in the old way. Fascist terror reigned with the imposition of martial law in 1972.

But this failed to crush the fledgling revolutionary movement. Instead, the people's war gained strength as thousands of activists went to the countryside. They gave momentum to the task of expanding the armed struggle in the rural areas. They reached out to and organized hundreds of thousands and even millions of people. The revolutionary movement could not have achieved its current expanse and strength if not for the significant contributions of the products of the First Quarter Storm of 1970.

It is fine to revisit the lessons from such an important part of Philippine revolutionary history because they serve to guide us in our current efforts to create a new and brilliant chapter in advancing people's war.

A strong and surging urban mass movement is the people's weapon in resisting oppression and exploitation. It is the way to arouse and mobilize them and take the ruling clique and the en-



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Ang Bayan welcomes contributions in the form of articles and news. Readers are likewise enjoined to send in their comments and suggestions for the betterment of our publication. You can reach us by email at:

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tire ruling system to task. Party-led forces must arouse the people and muster their revolutionary mood. The urban democratic mass movement must be strengthened in order to make loud and clear the people's clamor for revolutionary change and to form various types of alliances.

There is no dearth of outstanding issues that should be addressed by the mass movement. The crucial task for the mass movement is to put forward critical analysis and lay out the correct line of struggle to rally the people against the ruling reactionary clique and system.

At the same time, we must tirelessly reach out to the masses and form schools or study circles in factories, campuses or communities to discuss the program for national-democratic change.

Identifying and laying down the correct line of action will rouse and mobilize the people in their millions and pave the way for organizing and uniting them to fight for their national and democratic aspirations. Thus,

they can train their anger not only against the ruling regime but against the rotten ruling system that it represents and defends.

The role played by the youth-student sector in invigorating the people's democratic struggles is undeniable. They must mobilize massively not only to address their issues on campus, but even the issues and problems of the toiling masses in the cities and countryside. They must take action en masse and go to factories and communities and bring these issues to their schools and in the streets.

The organized strength of the masses of workers must be built anew. The reactionary government has launched brutal attacks against their unions and their basic rights. We must undertake the various ways of organizing workers—into unions or various forms of associations—in order to give primacy to their cries for higher wages, job security and better working conditions.

The good and advanced elements that emerge from strengthening the mass movement must be gleaned and brought together in revolutionary mass organizations, which must be boldly expanded and continuously broadened and strengthened through political education and mass campaigns and struggles.

The revolutionary mass organizations are the source of Party members and fighters of the New People's Army. A powerful mass movement serves as a wellspring of activists, proletarian revolutionaries and Red fighters.

The Party is sharply identifying, analyzing and resolving the problems that have been stopping or holding back the continuous advance of the democratic mass movement in recent years. The revolutionary forces are determinedly persevering in exposing the ruling Aquino regime, intensifying political struggles and thoroughly advancing the national-democratic propaganda movement. AB



5,000 victims of typhoon Pablo barricade ComVal highway

More than 5,000 victims of typhoon Pablo barricaded the highway at Montevista, Compostela Valley to assail the Aquino regime's neglect of their communities. They condemned the very sluggish and selective distribution by government agencies of food and other relief goods and services.

The victims, most of whom were farmers, farm workers and Lumad came all the way from the towns of Monkayo, Nabunturan, Compostela and Montevista in Compostela Valley; the municipalities of Baganga and Cateel in Davao Oriental; and Trento in Agusan del Sur. They walked for close to ten hours in the heat and rain just to be able to air their grievances to concerned authorities.

The barricade blocked the highway linking Davao City to Compostela Valley, Agusan del Sur, Agusan del Norte, Surigao del Sur, Surigao del Norte and Davao Oriental. Hundreds of vehicles were forced to stop. The police and military tried to intimidate the barricaders, saying that their protest action was illegal because it had no permit. But this did not work due to the sheer number of protesters.

DSWD secretary Corazon "Dinky" Soliman and Compostela Valley Gov. Arturo Uy were thus forced to face the rallyists. They tried to convince the protesters to dismantle the barricade, but likewise failed.

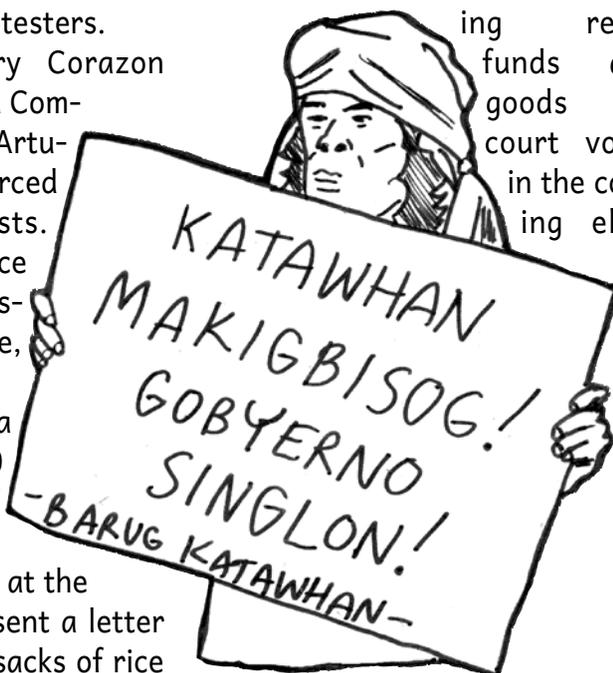
By 9:30 p.m., a truck carrying 1,900 packets of relief goods and 100 sacks of rice arrived at the barricade. Soliman sent a letter saying that 10,000 sacks of rice

would be arriving in two days. Only then did the protesters remove the barricade.

According to Barog Katawhan, the newly established organization of typhoon victims, hardly any help has come to them, especially to families living in remote areas. Meager supplies are distributed only to victims who have family or green cards issued by the DSWD.

In a statement, Barog Katawhan demanded that relief goods that have poured in from local and international agencies be immediately distributed to the millions of victims of typhoon Pablo. They called for an investigation on the DSWD's anomalous practices such as hoarding and favoring families living nearby. The victims also want punishment for politicians

who have been using relief funds and goods to court votes in the coming elec-



tions. Barog Katawhan condemned the measures taken by commercial plantations which arbitrarily revoked contracts with local growers. Growers are farmers contracted by commercial plantations to plant commercial products such as banana on their land. Despite having benefited from the wealth of the land and the people's labor for decades, the plantations did not even bother to offer financial assistance to the growers and their workers. Barog Katawhan said that the plantation owners must cancel the debts owed to them by the growers.

The coconut farmers, on the other hand, said that the Philippine Coconut Authority must release funds to them as a temporary solution to the widespread destruction of coconut trees and to enable them to start anew.

In addition, the victims demanded the immediate implementation of genuine land reform in the calamity-stricken towns and the cancellation of all debts owed by peasants and farm workers to merchants, landlords and usurers.

They also demanded the immediate denial of applications for IFMA (Integrated Forest Management Agreement) which is nothing but a front for large-scale logging, and payment of damages by big logging companies responsible for denuding the forests in the two provinces. They also called for an unequivocal moratorium on large-scale mining in the area.

Before the barricade, a fluvial candle-lighting ceremony was held by progressive organizations in Davao and Balsa (Buligsa)-Southern Mindanano on January 15. They commemorated the 40th day of typhoon Pablo and remembered the more than 1,000 people who were killed in the storm. AB

Youth rally against Cybercrime Law

Youth and students launched a protest action on January 15 to oppose the implementation of RA 10175 or the Cybercrime Prevention Law

They timed their protest with a Supreme Court session to hear petitions against the Cybercrime Law. They firmly oppose the law because it suppresses freedom of expression on the internet. It will merely become an instrument of government to silence its critics. Even ordinary people may become victims of this law because of its expanded provisions such as that on e-libel and invasion of individual pri-

vacy over the internet.

Other progressive groups joined the protest, including "hacktivists" who are also actively against the Cybercrime Law.

Meanwhile, students in Bicol, Cebu, Pangasinan, Cavite and Negros launched simultaneous mass actions to protest the law. Other youth protests are slated in the following weeks because of continuing Supreme Court hearings on the law. **AB**

SELDA demands indemnification for martial law victims

Two decades have passed, but victims of human rights violations under martial law have yet to receive the indemnification ordered by a Hawaii court.

The Samahan ng Ex-Detainees Laban sa Detensyon at Aresto (SELDA) has called on Congress to automatically recognize up to 10,000 victims of human rights violations who won a class suit filed in Hawaii against the Marcoses in 1992. The Hawaii court ordered the payment of \$1.2 billion in damages to the victims. SELDA appealed to the Congressional committee in charge of drafting the final version of the law on compensation.

One of the obstacles to the law's finalization is the Senate version which requires the victims to prove their status as victims. This requirement disregards the efforts of the victims and their families to obtain justice. They will be compelled to

relieve the difficult and painful process of proving that their rights were trampled on during martial law.

Another obstacle is a proposition by Sen. Joker Arroyo and Rep. Walden Bello not to include those who advanced armed struggle and had their rights violated (such as those who became victims of extrajudicial killing). This likewise disregards the right of the Filipino people to resist a tyrannical regime through various means.

The compensation will come from a portion of the Marcoses' ill-gotten wealth worth P10 billion returned by Swiss authorities to the Philippine government. The current regime is keen on using the amount for its own interests. **AB**

PISTON conducts successful transport caravan

Drivers and operators of UV Express (FX) launched a transport caravan on January 10 to oppose plans to phase-out their vehicles starting this year.

PISTON Party and ALSA-UV led the caravan from the Quezon Memorial Circle to Mendiola, Manila. More than 50 FX vans and jeepneys joined the caravan. The protesters had earlier filed a petition before the Supreme Court to stop the government from proceeding with the plan. PISTON Party chair George San Mateo said that they strongly oppose the memorandum circular issued by the Land Transportation Office ordering the phase-out this year of UV Express vehicles that are at least 13 years old because this would leave many drivers jobless.

Many small operators will also be out of business because foreigners and big automobile companies will end up controlling the sale of newer and more expensive FX models.

PISTON and ALSA-UV also threatened to launch a transport strike should the planned phaseout push through. **AB**

US warship runs aground at Tubbataha Reef

The CPP joined the widespread condemnation of the entry of the US warship USS Guardian to the Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park on January 17. The USS Guardian ran aground at the carefully maintained coral reefs in the area. Tubbataha Reef which is found at the Sulu Sea is a protected area and considered a World Heritage Park by UNESCO since 1993. Marine vessels are prohibited from entering the area.

The USS Guardian had no authorization to enter Tubbataha. It ignored even the warnings over the radio of the Tubbataha Park Rangers. When it ran aground, American soldiers trained their high-powered weapons at the rangers who approached the US warship and barred them from coming near the ship or boarding it.

The CPP said that the USS Guardian's unauthorized entry at Tubbataha shows the US military's overweening arrogance. Supported by its puppet Benigno Aquino III, US warships haughtily roam all over Philippine territory without any regard at all for the country's sovereignty.

The USS Guardian is a minesweeper with a crew of about 90. It had just come from Subic and was on its way to conduct patrol operations near Palawan where US warships often sail within Philippine territory.

In 2012, at least 80 US warships docked at Subic, Manila and other areas in the Philippines and joined "military exercises" and patrol operations at the South China Sea. In conjunction with this, the US military has also been given free rein to fly surveillance drones in Philippine airspace.

US military presence is bound to expand and intensify along with its intervention in the war of suppression against the Filipino people. In December, the Mutual Defense Board (a body created under the 1951 Mutual Defense Treaty) and the Strategic Defense Dialogue held another meeting. The SSD meeting, the third in 2012, was attended by high-ranking US military and security officials, including US Pacific commander Adm. Samuel James Locklear. The meeting resolved, among others, to allow even more dockings by US ships in the Philippines.

The meeting also discussed tighter relations between the US and the Philippine National Police through the Security Engagement Board, which was formed by the US and Philippine governments in 2006. The US has been using the SEB to deepen its intervention in the Philippines on the pretext of cooperation in defeating "non-traditional threats." US intervention is bound to intensify in the name of purportedly addressing piracy, cyber security and calamities. An agreement had also been forged earlier between the New York Police Department (NYPD) and PNP for the NYPD to set up a satellite office in the Philippines. **AB**

Presence of US drone in Masbate slammed

The Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) assailed the reported presence off the coast of Masbate of an Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) or drone owned by the US. The drone was found by fishermen on January 6.

The CPP said the drone was being used for counter-insurgency purposes, such as spying on the revolutionary movement. The Party also lambasted the Aquino regime for allowing the US to engage in intelligence operations in the Philippines, which is a clear violation of the country's sovereignty.

The US drone, which is a BQM-74E Chukar III model crashed off the coast of Sitio Tacdugan, San Jacinto in Masbate. The same was confirmed by the US embassy, which said that the downed vehicle was a US Naval surveillance drone used in military trainings.

The CPP pointed out that this was not the first incident that a drone was used in the country. On February 2, 2012, the US reportedly used surveillance drones before bombing a lair of suspected terrorists in Parang, Jolo, Sulu.

Also in Masbate in 2009, a number of police and military officers in the province witnessed the launch of a US drone on the island. The drone, however, was damaged and later crashed. **AB**

Criminality and corruption under Aquino

The killing of jueteng lord Victorino Siman and his 12 companions at a police-military checkpoint in Atimonan, Quezon on January 6 was the result of a rub-out, not a shoot-out. Subsequent investigations revealed that most of the victims were shot in the head. The rub-out was part of escalating rivalries between two syndicates over the control and expansion of jueteng territory in Southern Tagalog (ST).

The incident brings to the fore once more the existence of a vast politico-criminal network permeating all levels of government. It involves high-ranking military and police officers and civilian bureaucrats and is run by whoever is in power. Whatever the Aquino regime claims, it can no longer deny that criminal syndicates are alive and well under its rule and are managed by the president's relatives and closest friends and officials.

The syndicates that came to blows in Atimonan have long been involved in jueteng, an illegal numbers game. Siman belonged to the group of Charing Magbuhos (an ally of jueteng lord Macario "Bong" Pineda), until he had a falling out with his boss in 2010. Siman ran his group in partnership with a number of politicians and military and police officers, including Supt. Alfred Consumino, acting chief of the Headquarters Support Group of Region 4-B, who was among those killed in the incident.

A three-month plan led by Supt. Hansel Marantan, chief of the Regional Special Operations Group (RSOG) and deputy intelligence chief of the Police Regional Office-A culminated in an ambush on Siman. Marantan is the brother and business partner of Cenen Dinglasan, a fierce rival of Siman in Laguna. Dingla-

san is also the operator of the Small Town Lottery (STL) in a number of towns in Laguna, which serves as a front for jueteng operations. Marantan is notorious for his protection racket that links jueteng operations and carnapping. Since 2005, he has been involved in four other rub-out cases that killed 34 suspected criminals.

The rivalry between the two groups heightened with the death of another jueteng operator and the transfer of six of his collectors to Vic Siman's group. Last November, all six of Siman's men were killed in a rub-out operation also led by Marantan in Calamba, Laguna.

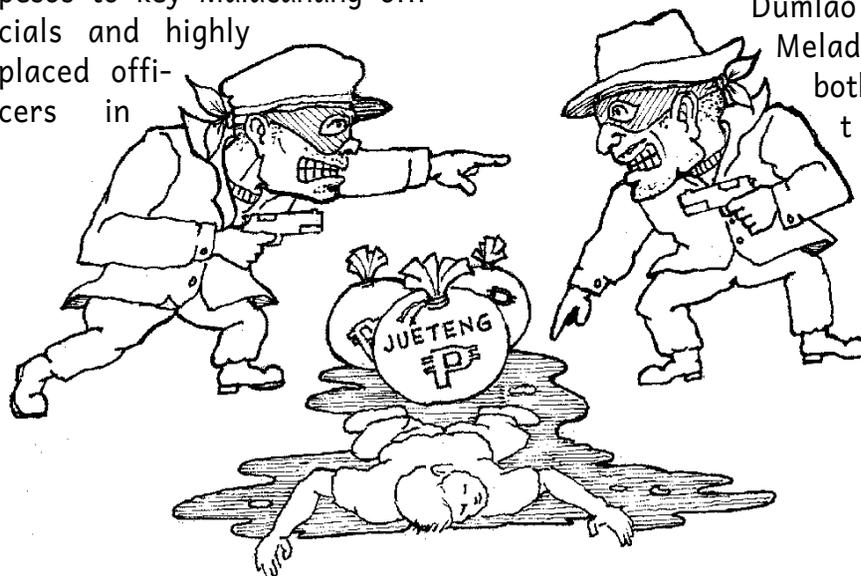
Dinglasan and Marantan are merely part of a national jueteng operation deeply embedded in the bureaucracy, police and military. This operation regularly gives hundreds of millions of pesos to key Malacañang officials and highly placed officers in

the military and police. It is no different from the vast and organized jueteng operation giving payola to former president Joseph Estrada. The exposé of the jueteng payola was one of the factors that enraged the people and led to the ouster of his government. Jueteng persisted during Gloria Arroyo's time in Malacañang through her connections with Central Luzon jueteng lord Bong Pineda and his wife Lilia Pineda.

The rub-out operation against Vic Siman's group could not have been implemented without the knowledge or blessings of the ruling regime. Contrary to an earlier statement by Executive Sec. Paquito Ochoa, a close friend of Aquino and head of the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Commission (PAOCC), the PAOCC approved the operation targeting Siman called Case Operation Plan or "COPLAN Armado." The admission was made by Supt. Glenn Dumlao, commander of the Regional Public Safety Battalion in Calabarzon and supervisor of "COPLAN Armado." PAOCC officials likewise admitted to providing "COPLAN Armado" ₱100,000, allegedly for intelligence operations.

Marantan reported directly to Police Director James Melad, head of the PNP-Calabarzon.

Dumlao and Melad are both notorious



ous for being former underlings of ex-PNP chief Panfilo Lacson, now a senator and close ally of the Aquino regime. Both have been involved in previous rub-out cases. Melad was one of the police officers involved in the killing of 11 members of the Kuratong Baleleng criminal syndicate in 1995 and the subsequent rub-out of witnesses. Dumlao was involved in the abduction and murder of publicist Bubby Dacer and his driver Emmanuel Corbito at the instigation of Lacson, who was then PNP chief under Estrada. Despite such a record, Dumlao was reinstated in the PNP and appointed commander of the Calabarzon Public Safety Battalion after he and Lacson surfaced in 2011 after months in hiding.

"COPLAN Armado" was implemented with the participation of 25 soldiers from the First Special Forces Battalion of the AFP Southern Luzon Command.

The people are fully aware that criminal syndicates in cahoots with political power are

rampant in the country, but Aquino himself has said that wiping them out is not part of his administration's priorities.

Aquino feigned ignorance when former Archbishop Oscar Cruz divulged in 2010 that former DILG Undersecretary Rico S. Puno and former PNP chief Gen. Jesus Verzosa were Aquino's collectors of jueteng payola. They were used by Aquino to organize the jueteng and other criminal networks and make arrangements regarding the centralization of payola for the new occupant of Malacañang. Puno has been a close friend and shooting buddy of Aquino, even long before the latter became president. Despite the scandals that Puno has been embroiled in, Aquino has not removed him from his government and even has plans of appointing him to the Department of Agriculture.

The Aquino regime assigned the National Bureau of Investigation to handle this latest controversy involving the jueteng criminal syndicate. The regime has

been making calculated moves, ensuring that it is in control of the course of the investigation, that Malacañang is not incriminated and that the entire controversy does not get any bigger.

With this complex mix of politico-criminal syndicates, protection rackets and the patronage system pervading the entire reactionary government all the way to the very top of the civilian, police and military hierarchy, there can be no serious resolution forthcoming. In fact, jueteng will even flourish all the more with the approaching elections this 2013. A huge percentage of the campaign kitties is funded by jueteng operations and payola from other criminal syndicates.

On the part of the revolutionary movement, it firmly stands against jueteng operations and other forms of gambling. It adopts a comprehensive and sustained approach to combating all kinds of gambling, linking it to painstaking mass work and military work. **AB**

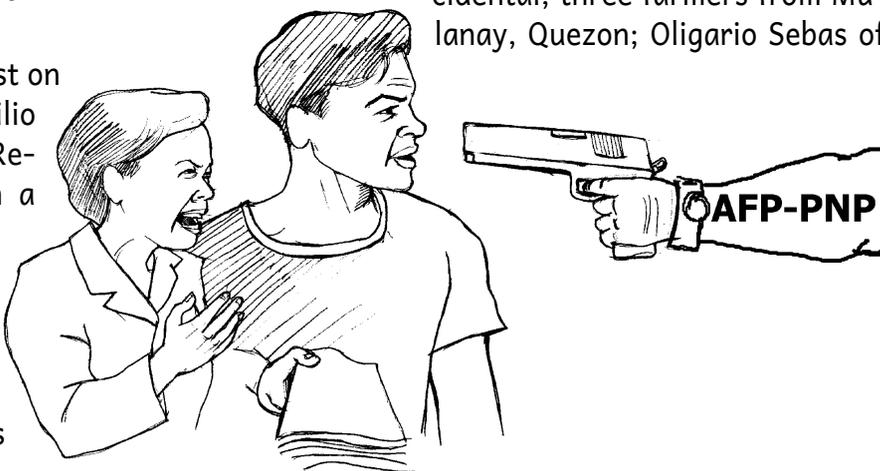
28 activists nabbed in series of arrests

Up to 28 activists have been rounded up since December. The human rights watchdog KARAPATAN said the activists were all arrested on the basis of trumped-up criminal charges. The activists in custody all aface similar cases where they are accused of being Red fighters involved in various NPA actions.

The latest incident involved the arrest on January 4 by the PNP-Cagayan of Virgilio Corpuz, PISTON Party coordinator for Region 2. Corpuz has been slapped with a trumped-up murder charge in connection with an NPA ambush in Tinoc, Ifugao in April 2012. He is also a member of Katinnulong Dagiti Umili iti Amianan (Kaduami), a progressive organization that has long been assisting communities

victimized by massive landgrabbing and poverty.

Also among those illegally arrested are Randi Vegas and Raul Composano of COURAGE; Anecita Rojo, mother of the BAYAN-Negros secretary-general; 19 members of Tribu Bukidnon in Negros Occidental; three farmers from Mulanay, Quezon; Oligario Sebas of



Negros Oriental; and Rene Boy Abiva of ACT Teachers Partylist.

In the face of these arrests, KARAPATAN timed a protest action with the first meeting of the Inter-agency Committee (IAC) superbody on January 8. The Aquino regime formed the IAC ostensibly to investigate cases of extrajudicial killing (EJK), forced disappearance and other human rights violations. It is no different from Task Force Usig organized by the Arroyo regime, whose only aim was to show that the state was taking action even as it did nothing but absolve itself of responsibility for grave cases of human rights violations.

Attorneys from the National Union of People's Lawyers assailed the IAC's expansion of the definition of EJK. The IAC now includes killings by "non-state actors" in the definition in a bid to portray legitimate military actions by the New People's Army as EJK, including punitive actions done in accordance with the revolutionary system of justice. In addition, a killing may now be termed as EJK based on the circumstances surrounding it and the methods used.

This is contrary to the definition of EJK as a human rights violation committed by the state and its institutions responsible for protecting the people's lives and their rights under international law.

The NUPL attorneys also assailed the growing number of illegal arrests of civilians and the filing of trumped-up criminal cases against them involving the revolutionary movement. AB

Latest ceasefire violations by the AFP

The following are additions to reports earlier published by *Ang Bayan* on the AFP's violations of the synchronized ceasefire from December 20, 2012 to January 15. They are based on reports submitted by NDF chapters and Party committees in Southern Mindanao, Northcentral Mindanao and Southern Tagalog.

January 10. Elements of the AFP 10th Special Forces accompanied by CAFGU forces attacked a platoon under the NPA Herminio Alfonso Command (Guerrilla Front 53) in Upper Tiwayan, Barangay Badyangun, Arakan, North Cotabato. The NPA unit was then preparing for a mass meeting to discuss the land problem in the area.

January 10. A platoon under the 8th IB conducted military operations in St. Peter and patrolled Kulaman and Busdi, all in Malaybalay City.

January 9. Elements of the 67th IB arrested and detained civilian Pablito Gubaton, purok chairman of Sitio Bangas, Barangay Mainit, Cateel, Davao Oriental. He was released after eight hours of interrogation. Gubaton was accused of accepting food aid from the New People's Army.

January 2. Troopers from the 8th IB-CAFGU set up a checkpoint in Halapitan, San Fernando, Bukidnon.

December 31. Nine soldiers from the 8th IB set up a checkpoint on a bridge in Barangay Alanib, Lantapan, Bukidnon. They frisked all passersby

and inspected all cargo.

December 28. Reinforcement troops from the 8th IB aboard four six-by-six trucks entered St. Peter, Malaybalay City and patrolled the sub-villages in four adjacent barangays.

December 27. The 58th IB and CAFGU set up a checkpoint in Palo, Balason, Gingoog City. They were in ambush position by the roadside, training their weapons at the people passing by. They inspected the bags of all travellers.

December 26. Policemen extorted money from motorists passing by the checkpoint they had set up along the highway in Kinoguitan, Misamis Oriental. On the same day, 8th IB and CAFGU elements also set up a checkpoint in Can-ayan, Malaybalay City. They investigated all passing motorists and passengers. They also set up a checkpoint in Barangay Silae, Malaybalay City.

December 23. Troops from the 8th IB aboard two six-by-six trucks entered St. Peter, Malaybalay City with two howitzers. Some of the troops patrolled the sitios of St. Peter and the nearby village of Busdi.

Military operations that began on November 28 are still going on in Barangay Cawayan



and Victory, Lantapan, Bukidnon. Soldiers occupied the barangay hall in the middle of several houses in Barangay Victory. Thirteen soldiers camped out at the basketball court in Barangay Cawayan and occupied a vegetable warehouse. While encamped in the two villages, the soldiers gambled, went on drinking sprees and extorted produce from the farmers.

All throughout the ceasefire, battalion-size operations were conducted in Rizal town in Laguna. Military operations conducted by combined forces of the 1st Special Forces Battalion and the 202nd Infantry Brigade also went on unabated in San Pablo City, particularly in the villages of San Antonio, Santisimo, San Miguel, San Bartolome and Santa Monica. Combat operations were launched in the nearby towns of Victoria and Pagsanjan.

In Quezon, the Special Warfare Group (SWAG) launched military operations in Real town. Teams under the 201st Infantry Brigade also launched operations in several villages of Guinayangan, Calauag and Tagkawayan towns. These same municipalities were also covered by operations launched by the Bicol-based 49th IB. Meanwhile, elements of the 201st Infantry Brigade launched operations in Sta. Elena in Camarines Norte. The 76th IB based in the villages of Bagong Silang, Casispalan, Busignon and Kabatuhan launched combat operations in Tagkawayan until the end of December. AB

Ang Bayan video

Since May 2012, video productions based on *Ang Bayan* issues have been coming out. Summaries of *Ang Bayan's* contents are presented in news form through eight- to ten-minute videos.

Every *Ang Bayan* video release can be viewed first at the www.philippinerevolution.net website. From here, the video may be viewed and downloaded to computers, tablets or cellphones. The videos are also propagated through DVDs or USB drives. In the countryside, there are mass viewings of *Ang Bayan* videos by Party branches and NPA units. *AB* videos may also be viewed on late-model cellphones.

Because they are easier to propagate, there are times when the *Ang Bayan* video arrives before the actual publication, especially in the guerrilla zones. On these occasions, the *Ang Bayan* video serves as a "preview" and a bigger push to guerrilla publishing houses to immediately reproduce the publication.

Ang Bayan's readers have long been requesting for videos as a supplementary form of revolutionary news. Videos help viewers visualize the information contained in the Party newspaper, especially for those who do not have regular access to television or the internet.

Through the *AB* video, viewers are shown images of

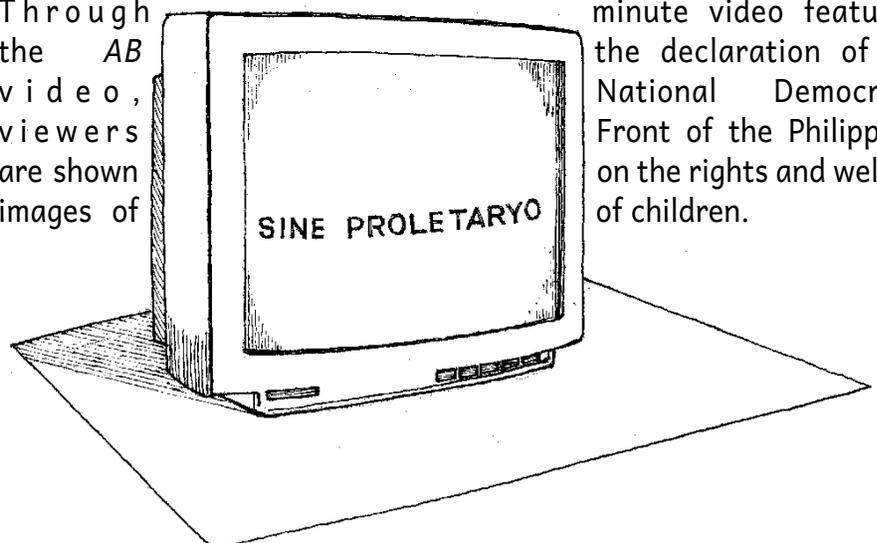
events, places, personalities and other news subjects. The most favorite views on *AB* videos are images of NPA Red fighters and even of various other revolutionary mass organizations.

Ang Bayan calls on all Party committees and NPA units to contribute video footages and other images that can be used in future productions of *AB* video.

Taganito: Sine Proletaryo's featured video

Sine Proletaryo issued on January 16 *Taganito*, a seven-minute video featuring the victorious operation of the Pulang Diwata Command of the New People's Army in October 2011 against destructive mining in Surigao del Sur. The video was released by Sine Proletaryo to hail the major victories of the revolutionary movement in Mindanao in the past decade.

Taganito is the second short video produced by Sine Proletaryo in recent months. Last November, it released *Mga Bata sa Rebolusyon* in collaboration with Isnayp Multimedia of Bicol. *Mga Bata sa Rebolusyon* is a ten-minute video featuring the declaration of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines on the rights and welfare of children. AB



NPA arrests soldier, policeman in ComVal

The New People's Army (NPA) arrested a soldier and a policeman in Compostela Valley at around 8 a.m. of January 17. Pfc. Jesreel Colanggo and SPO1 Ruel Pasion were captured at a checkpoint set up by the NPA Guerrilla Front 34 Operations Command in Barangay Mangloy in Laak town. The NPA confiscated a cal .45 pistol from them.

The two prisoners are being treated well, in accordance with the international rules of war.

The checkpoint was set up to stop the entry of undesirable elements in the area and to counter the 60th Special Operations Team which was conducting operations at the time. The 60th IB has a bloody record. It is responsible for the killing of farmer Totong Mabinsa of Barangay Datu, Laak and the forced recruitment and surrender of

peasants.

Prior to this, elements of the 67th and 72nd IB attacked a group of NPA political officers from the Front 15 Operations Command soliciting relief goods and other assistance for victims of typhoon Pablo. The raid occurred at around 7 a.m. in Sitio Limot, Barangay Binondo, Baganga, Davao Oriental. Warned about the impending attack, the comrades were able to fight back and maneuver their way

out, but left behind two rifles at the scene of battle.

The calamity-stricken residents of Baganga, Manay, Mati and Lupon in Davao Oriental are being victimized twice over by the brigade-size operations of the 67th and 28th IB. The soldiers barred the residents of the sub-villages of Tigbawan, Limot, Mantapay and Bagangan in Barangay Binondo, Baganga and residents of sitios 72 and Tangaan in Barangay Manurigao, New Bataan from entering and leaving their communities.

Meanwhile, the People's Democratic Government continues to implement its medium-term program to rehabilitate damaged farms and other sources of livelihood of the masses in the areas struck by typhoon Pablo. AB

NPA armed action in Negros

Despite the enemy's superiority in terms of number, quality of arms and training, a platoon of the New People's Army was able to defeat a composite force of Scout Rangers and 11th IB elements in Sitio Mapahopaho, San Agustin, Isabela, Negros Occidental on December 13. The Leonardo Panaligan Command-Central Negros reported that three soldiers were killed, two went missing and four were wounded in this gunbattle. The NPA was also able to seize three high-powered rifles (one of which was damaged during the fighting) and other military equipment.

The tactical offensive is a big slap in the face for Col. Francisco Patrimonio, chief of the 302nd Brigade who led the soldiers who arrested Oligario Sebas, an innocent civilian, on December 25 in Barangay Tubod, Manjuyod, Negros Oriental.

Patrimonio's objective was to collect the ₱5.5 million bounty for the arrest of a Filemon Mendres, allegedly a high-ranking NPA official. He did so by falsely claiming that Sebas is Mendres. Colonel Patrimonio wanted to make waves through the December 13 encounter to ensure his promotion this year. AB

Acosta granted temporary release

Poet-political detainee Ericson Acosta was granted temporary release on January 18 to enable him to seek treatment at the National Kidney and Transplant Institute (NKTi) in Quezon City. From his jail cell in Calbayog City, he was accompanied by lawyers and officers of the Public Attorney's Office and paralegals from KARAPATAN. He was also escorted by personnel of the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology. Acosta is suffering from nephritis, or inflammation of the kidneys.

In a related development, Alan Jazmines was granted a three-hour furlough on January 5 to attend his mother's wake at the Loyola Memorial Chapels on Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City. Jazmines is an NDFP peace talks consultant. He has been detained for almost two years. His mother Cristina Valera Jazmines died on January 1 at the age of 92. AB

Thousands condemn slaying of 3 Kurdish women activists

Up to 50,000 Kurds poured out into the streets of Diyarbakir, Turkey on January 17 to attend the funeral procession of three Kurdish women who were killed in Paris, France. The Kurds condemned the murders of Sakine Cansiz, one of the founders of the revolutionary Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK); Finan Dogan, a representative of the Kurdistan National Congress (KNC) based in Belgium; and Leyla Soylemez, a youth activist who represented the KNC in France.

The three women all sustained gunshot wounds to the head while they were inside the Kurdistan Information Center in Paris on January 9. The French police are treating the killings as an ordinary crime but the Kurds strongly believe that the murders were perpetrated by the Turkish armed forces. The PKK likewise believes that the French government, which has been slammed by Turkey for allegedly doing nothing in the face of the various activities launched by Kurdish activists in France, is also involved. In France, up to 15,000 Kurds rallied to condemn the political killings.

The three women were known for their advocacy of the Kurdish people's national struggle. Cansiz was granted political refugee status in 1998. Before this, she was imprisoned for 12 years in Turkey and suffered severe torture.

Gultan Kisanak, leader of a Kurdish political party vehemently denied that the killings were the result of factional struggles within the PKK. He said that France must be held responsible for the killings, adding that French operatives were surely involved. PKK leader Abdullah Ocalan has been serving a life sentence since 1999 in a prison located in an island near the Turkish capital

of Istanbul.

The PKK is a Kurdish armed revolutionary group based in northern Turkey. It is struggling for the national self-determination of the Kurdish people. Like the CPP, the PKK is on the US list of "terrorist organizations."

Before the killings, French police arrested KNC executive committee member Adem Uzun on October 6, 2011, in Paris. Uzun was then in the country to attend a conference called by the French government to discuss the situation of Kurds based in Syria.

The KNC is an alliance of Kurdish organizations struggling for national self-determination. It is one of the organizations calling for peace talks between the PKK and the Turkish government. Uzun, in particular, was one of the officials involved in negotiations held from 2009-2011 in Oslo, Norway. The KNC believes that

Uzun was arrested by the French as a favor to the Turkish government.

In late 2012, the Turkish government was forced to negotiate with the PKK. This was after the PKK intensified its armed offensives against the Turkish armed forces after almost a decade of avoiding armed encounters. The Turkish government nonetheless continued its attacks and repression of Kurdish communities believed to be PKK bases or supporters. Just last month, Turkish forces conducted almost daily aerial bombardments in northern Kurdistan (near the Iranian border).

The Kurdish people comprise the biggest ethnic group in the world without their own state. They are scattered near the boundaries of four countries—Turkey, Syria, Iran and Iraq—in the region known as Kurdistan. In Turkey, 20% of the population are Kurds who are denied many rights, including the use of their own language. **AB**



Sakine Cansiz, 58

US passes repressive laws

US Pres. Barack Obama extended in December a law allowing the US government to spy on American citizens and US residents even without a court order. Extended for five years, the FISA (Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act) Amendments Act is a law that has met strong opposition from civil rights advocacy groups. The law relaxes the requisites for surveilling individuals suspected of having links with "foreign terrorists."

The FISA Amendments were initiated by former Pres. George Bush Jr. after the attacks in New York on September 11, 2001. Months after, Bush secretly ordered the National Security Agency (NSA) to spy on American citizens. The resulting widespread surveillance was done without court orders.

Among the items covered by surveillance are telephone calls to other countries, email and other types of communication. Such surveillance is conducted on even the slightest suspicion that the target is involved in terrorist activities. Activists who oppose governments supported by the US are vulnerable to the law's provisions, as are individuals and groups suspected

by the US of being terrorist.

In a related development, Obama signed anew the National Defense Authorization Act of 2013 in the first week of January. The law allows the indefinite detention without charges of anyone, including American citizens. It also calls for the maintenance of prison facilities at the US military base in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba despite Obama's promise during his first day in office to close it down within a year.

The law also allots \$633 billion for US military operations worldwide and \$88.5 billion for contingency operations in the continuing war in Afghanistan. There is also a \$10.5 billion allocation for the Special Operations Command (USSOCOM) in preparation for new acts of US intervention in various parts of the globe. **AB**



US, France intervene in CAR

Using humanitarian intervention as a pretext, the US and France sent troops to the Central African Republic (CAR) to interfere in the country's internal affairs. US and French troops have long been conducting military operations in the country amid offensives by rebel forces out to overthrow the government of Pres. Francois Bozize.

The CAR is one of many countries in Central Africa where a hundred American Special Forces have been active, ostensibly fighting members of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA). The LRA is one of the organizations given the terrorist tag by the US government. It is led by Joseph Kony, and is believed to be based in the CAR.

Upon Obama's orders, an additional 50-strong standby security force has been sent to the CAR allegedly to assist the people. US Embassy personnel as well as other Americans in Bangui, the CAR's capital have been sent home. Six-hundred French troops have been deployed to the former French colony ostensibly to protect 1,200 French residents.

The CAR, with a population of 4.5 million, is one of the world's poorest countries. It has a backward economy but its rich natural resources are coveted by imperialist countries like the US and France.

Among its natural resources are diamonds, gold, uranium, logs and oil. A uranium mine in the southern part of the Central African Republic is run by Areva, a French company. **AB**