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Editorial

Expand and strengthen the NDFP and the unity of the Filipino people!

The Filipino people will be celebrating the 40th founding anniversary of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines on April 24th. This celebration is especially significant as the armed revolutionary movement all over the Philippines continues to gain strength and advance.

From the establishment of the NDF Preparatory Commission in 1973, the NDFP is now composed of 16 revolutionary mass organizations. It represents millions of people under the emergent organs of new democratic people's government.

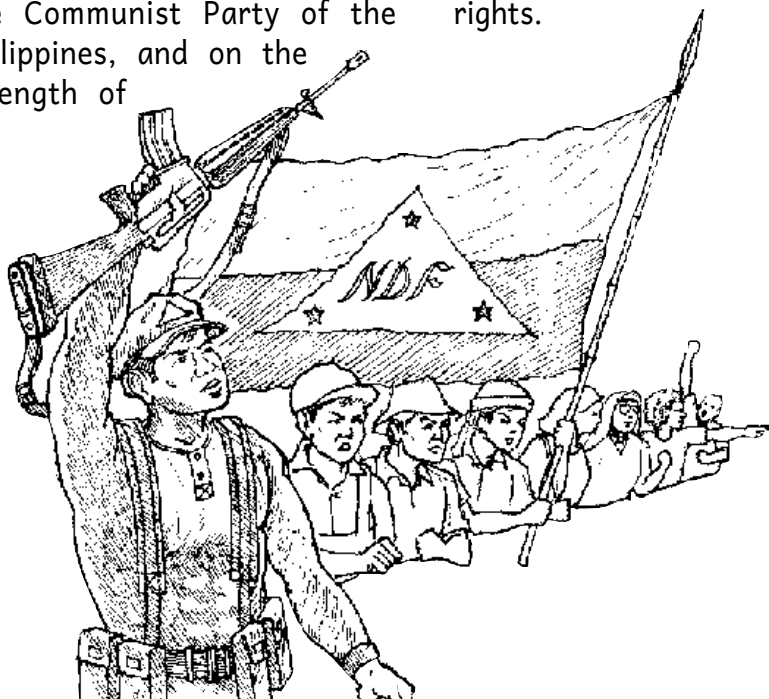
Since 1973, the NDFP has played a major role in the revolutionary struggle of the Filipino people. Under the leadership of the Communist Party of the Philippines, and on the strength of

the basic alliance of workers and peasants, the NDFP embraces the progressive and patriotic classes, sectors and forces. The NDFP played a big role in uniting the people and advancing their struggles against the US-Marcos dictatorship and the succeeding reactionary governments. It likewise played a big role in the struggles for genuine land reform, against the US military bases and for human rights.

It represents the people in establishing diplomatic relations with other governments and building anti-imperialist solidarity with peoples in various parts of the globe.

It represents the people's democratic government in peace negotiations with the ruling state to push for national and democratic changes in order to resolve the roots of the armed conflict in the Philippines.

The NDFP's role as an instrument of the Filipino people in building their national and democratic unity and strength is especially crucial now in the



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face of the further deterioration of the semicolonial and semifeudal system and the worsening corruption, puppetry and brutality of the US-Aquino regime.

The US-Aquino regime has proven that its class rule is no different from that of previous reactionary regimes. It is not far off from the Arroyo regime and other previous governments notorious for rampant corruption.

Aquino's "righteous road" and "clean governance" slogans repeated ad nauseam could not cover up the stench of anomalies reeked by his regime.

The Aquino regime's biggest businessman-cronies like Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco, Lucio Tan, Manny Pangilinan, Henry Sy, Lucio Co and their ilk are also the biggest tax evaders. They are the biggest beneficiaries of contracts under the Public-Private Partnership Program. The Cojuangco-Aquino camp has been seizing contracts for infrastructure projects from its businessman-rivals and exacting the biggest percentages to line its

pockets. It is engaged in a dog-eat-dog struggle for control over the operations of smuggling and illegal gambling syndicates and other criminal operations.

On the other hand, the Filipino people are being squeezed dry with taxes and other fees. Taxes on basic commodities, including petroleum products remain sky-high, and are a huge burden on the people. Budgets for health services and education are grossly inadequate. Hospitals and public schools are in various states of decay. Urban poor shanties are being demolished to give way to infrastructure projects for foreign companies.

Aquino's gimmickry could not cover up the people's poverty. Unemployment and underemployment are worsening. Workers' wages remain pegged and their rights to form unions and strike suppressed. Genuine land reform is absent, and reactionary laws used to pave the way for foreign and feudal control of vast landholdings.


Aquino challenges the people's patriotism by granting full access to US soldiers, warships and warplanes and allowing unbridled insults to Philippine sovereignty. He allows the use of the Philippines for US hegemonism, warmongering and intervention in the Asia-Pacific. He permits the US military to operate and base itself in the Philippines. It is no wonder that his imperialist master has been all praises for Aquino, even including him in *Time* magazine's list of the most influential personalities.

Thus, it likewise comes as no surprise that in the face of the worsening crisis of the ruling system in the Philippines, the Filipino people's desire for national and democratic change has heightened. They want an end to the oppression, exploitation and suffering wrought by the US-Aquino regime's pro-imperialist and antipeople policies. They are determined to advance their revolutionary struggles and bring the people's war to the next stage of the strategic stalemate in the coming years.

Towards this end, the NDFP must be strengthened and consolidated as the center of the people's national-democratic unity. We must propagate the NDFP 12-Point Program as the framework for building national solidarity.

The NDFP must lead in building the people's patriotic unity in the face of the ruling Aquino regime's worsening puppetry and violations of national sovereignty. We must build the broadest possible unity to oppose and effect the abrogation of the Visiting Forces Agreement, the Mutual Defense Treaty and other unequal treaties.

We must likewise build a broad unity against evil designs

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to amend the reactionary constitution of 1987 to allow fullblown foreign capitalist ownership of local businesses and reestablish the US military bases or allow them to operate in the country anew.

We must gather broad support to advance the peace negotiations between the NDFP and the Government of the Philippines. We must demand respect from the US-Aquino regime for all previously signed agreements, among them those pertaining to the release of NDFP peace talks consultants in order to pave the way for negotiations on

socio-economic issues.

Organs of people's democratic government must be built on various levels and the Filipino people's capacity for self-governance strengthened. These measures form part of efforts to strengthen the NDFP as the representative of the Filipino people.

The NDFP's initiatives to build solidarity with anti-imperialist struggles in various countries and rally the broadest possible support for the Filipino people's struggle must be strengthened. **AB**

NPA's glowing victories in NEMR

The New People's Army (NPA) held a heroic and glowing celebration of the 44th NPA anniversary in Northeastern Mindanao Region (NEMR). The revolutionary movement in the region was able to reach the height of its development in 2012, said NDF-NEMR spokesperson Ka Maria Malaya. These victories were attained through the absolute leadership of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) over the NPA and the entire revolutionary

movement.

NPA and People's Militia. The region currently has two battalions of NPA Red fighters armed with high-powered rifles and assigned to guerrilla platoons in the various towns of NEMR's four provinces. There are also five battalions of people's militias in the villages. This is a huge development compared to 2001, when the NPA in the region had only a small battalion and there were some 500 members of the people's militia.

Tactical offensives. The NPA in NEMR was able to launch 148 tactical offensives in 2012, including 19 annihilative actions. It confiscated enough high-powered rifles to arm an additional platoon of Red fighters.

The NPA confronted the enemy's massive operations by launching counter-offensives. It launched 104 harassment operations and three ambushes by way of counter-attack, killing up

to 142 enemy troops and wounding 115. The Red fighters also destroyed two helicopters. Nine Red fighters were martyred in these gunbattles.

Sixteen punitive actions were undertaken against mining companies and plantations that refused to recognize the authority of the revolutionary movement. The main targets were companies running plantations of bananas for export, such as Dole Philippines. These plantations are environmentally destructive and are a bane to the peasants' livelihood.

Mass base. The mass base has been strengthened and steeled to withstand enemy attacks. The revolutionary movement operates in villages with a population of up to 640,000, a third of which may be considered as the revolutionary mass base. On the other hand, there is still a need to reach out to, and organize, a third of the region's barrios, especially in the



town centers and cities.

Agrarian revolution. Growing numbers of families are benefiting from various forms of agrarian revolution. Up to 43,779 families or 218,000 individuals have been benefited by agrarian revolution in 330 villages in 29 municipalities. In a program encouraging peasants to resume farming in the uplands, up to 4,200 families have been tilling lands within former big logging concessions. Farming has been developed in these areas as a way of ensuring that peasant families and communities have food and other basic

needs within the framework of the "*ekonomiyang sarang sa kaugalingon*" (self-sufficient economy).

Enemy attacks and NPA counter-offensives. With the goal of crushing the revolutionary forces in NEMR, the US-Aquino regime deployed five battalions—the 75th, 36th and 30th IB and the 3rd Special Forces Battalion and four companies from the 26th and 38th IB, Scout Ranger Coy, 401st Division Reconnaissance Coy, including the Philippine National Police and CAFGU. The enemy launched 74 military operations mainly in the big mining areas. Nonetheless, the enemy failed in its objective and had to content itself with showing off its laughable "trophies"—abandoned temporary NPA encampments.

The Eastern Mindanao Command (Eastmincom), the highest AFP command in the eastern portion of the island, launched a military operation from March to April 2012, unleashing 1,200 troops in the mountainous areas of Surigao del Norte, Surigao del Sur and Agusan del Norte. It was an operation bigger than that launched during Oplan Bantay Laya 1 and 2. Thirty battalion-size operations were likewise launched by the 4th Infantry Division.

The enemy's massive offensives failed to stymie the growth and advance of the revolutionary movement. They were confronted head-on by the NPA's counter-offensives and the people's struggles in their desire to defend and advance the revolution's victories. AB

Nang Lydia's house

Arbitration at the barrio level



Nang Lydia's house in a remote village in Northeastern Mindanao is never without visitors who come to seek advice on various matters. There are mass activists who come to be advised on how to better the mass organizations. And there are those with complaints or who wish to file cases.

"I'm used to it," said Nang Lydia. "There are times when the first thing we wake up to in the morning are problems. They really are of various kinds, from

neighbors' quarrels to serious cases like rape, carabao rustling and homicide."

Nang Lydia said she doesn't do all the work alone. All cases

that are filed or problems brought before them are collectively discussed by the Barrio Revolutionary Committee which serves as the people's organ of political power. It just so happens that her house is near a road going to the neighboring sitio and villages. The people find it convenient to come here.

Besides, Nang Lydia was also one of the first mass activists when the revolutionary movement was established in their village. It is clear to the ordinary folk that Nang Lydia and her comrades devote time to taking care of the masses' welfare. Their growing tasks have likewise been the result of their organization's growing strength. Their organization earned even more respect when it took the lead in confronting several big stores in neighboring sitios to demand lower prices for basic commodities. After they succeeded, they began to handle various cases, with Nang Lydia's house virtually becoming their organization's office. As their organization gained strength, so did their revolutionary commitment to serve the people.

"At first, we felt shy about settling differences between two 'warring' parties. When we began, we found it difficult. But with the comrades' guidance and the courses we have attended, we have been able to handle the cases or problems brought to our attention. The revolution aims to achieve justice so that the people could enjoy the fruits of their labor. With this objective, there will always be people filing cases because they have been deprived of their economic rights. They may come in various forms, but most of the cases we handle are of this nature.

"Based on our experience, arbitration has become an effective means of uniting the people for the revolution. This is because the people see that it is possible to obtain justice even while we are still advancing our struggle."

Arbitration is founded on the principle of achieving social justice, to which the revolution holds fast. Aside from this, the Party had issued the Guide to Establishing the People's Democratic Government as early as 1977, which declares the princi-

ples concerning the system of government, people's court and the people's duties. The Revolutionary Guide to Land Reform was also issued that same year. Peasants who file cases against landlords and advance their right to have land to till use this as basis.

In Nang Lydia's experience, most cases involve altercations among the people and are resolved through arbitration. This is a process of resolving issues outside of the formal courts. This is handled by the organs of political power under the guidance of the Party and its representatives. Serious criminal cases that need longer processing and preparations are referred to the people's court. The manner of establishing and running this court has also been discussed as early as 1977 and continues to be developed through actual practice.

In Nang Lydia's opinion, many people flock to their organization because both the complainant and the subject of the complaint are satisfied with the results of their arbitration. Besides the fact that it doesn't

cost them anything, arbitration is quick and the decisions are based on laws and policies founded on equality and justice. Nang Lydia and her group make sure that both sides are heard. Anyone who is not content with the decision may appeal to the next higher court. Decisions are arrived at quickly because there are no obstructions to the flow of justice, such as the dirty and shrewd tactics employed in the bourgeois courts where money is the main factor that determines how cases will be handled. Most of all, the law on which the decisions of bourgeois courts are founded are already skewed in favor of the ruling class.

"The constant stream of cases being filed before the revolutionary movement is a recognition of its ability to attain genuine justice for the oppressed." AB

(This article is based on "Ang panimalay ni Nang Lydia" (Nang Lydia's home) published in the March 2013 issue of Sulong, the revolutionary newsmagazine of the National Democratic Front-Mindanao).

Revolutionary movement in Cavite to be strengthened

Alongside congratulating the New People's Army on its 44th year, the National Democratic Front (NDF) in Cavite enthusiastically called on all its members to strengthen the revolutionary movement in the province.

It cannot be denied that most of the Aquino regime's antipeople policies were jumpstarted in Cavite. Among them are the two-tiered system for workers' wages, the big projects under the Public-Private Partnership such as the Light Rail Transit extension and the privatization of the reclamation area along Manila Bay. Landgrabbing is being relentlessly done to construct private subdivisions

and for tourism. Dirty politics and the longtime rule of powerful dynasties in the province are likewise unabated. On top of everything, hunger and poverty continue to stalk the people of Cavite.

The NDF-Cavite showed its strength in a week-long celebration of the NPA anniversary by launching lightning rallies, putting up improvised streamers and conducting studies for their members on the people's war. The NDF-Cavite foresees that in the coming years, it will be able to gather enough strength to build an NPA unit in the province and contribute to strengthening the people's war towards the strategic stalemate. AB

A tribute to Ka Abon, valiant Party cadre

"If the line of the Party is correct, a unit of the people's army arises where there is none either because the local Party members and mass activists are determined to form the NPA from their ranks or welcome the introduction of NPA seed elements from elsewhere in the district, province or region."

—Message of the Communist Party of the Philippines on the 44th anniversary of the New People's Army

The life and experiences of Felino Pecoro, a revolutionary martyr who began as a local activist and advanced as a valiant fighter and leading Party cadre in the region mirror the establishment and advance of the armed movement in Samar. In the history of Eastern Visayas, revolutionary mass organizations and local Party branches have played a key role in the formation of the New People's Army (NPA) and the continuing advance of the armed revolutionary movement in the region. A striking example is the establishment of mass organizations and local Party branches that led to the formation of the Party organization and NPA units not only in Samar but in the entire region.

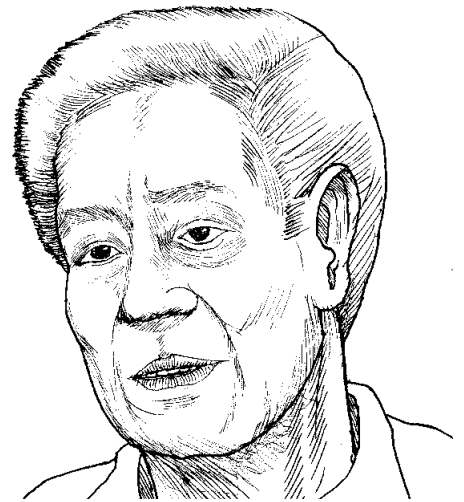
Known as "Ka Abon," (and Ka Silong and Ka Talino before this), Pecoro died on April 26, 2012 at the age of 69 due to a serious illness. He became politically conscious in 1970 when youth activists assigned by the Party to the area first came to their barrio in Villareal, Samar. He came from a rich peasant family, and was relatively well off because he was able to establish a small business. Prudencio Calubid, who was his friend since childhood influenced the growth of his political consciousness in a major way.

Ka Abon was one of the first to be organized and oriented on

how to build the Barrio Organizing Committee (BOC) in Villareal and adjacent villages and towns. He became a Party member in 1973. From the BOC, the peasant organizations were formed and the local Party branches established. Activists and cadres ready to work full-time to expand the Party and build the NPA on a broader scale emerged from their ranks. In 1974, Ka Abon decided to work fulltime for the NPA after the military put him on its wanted list.

Ka Abon was reassigned to his village after a stint with the NPA and served as secretary of the territorial Party organization in three adjacent towns dubbed the "Western Zone" in 1975-78. In 1979, he was appointed to the Party committee in the Southwest, which became a fullfledged District Committee in 1981. He became a member of the Samar province provincial committee when it was established in 1984. In the Regional Conference in 1985, he was elected member of the Eastern Visayas Regional Committee and served as secretary of a guerrilla front covering the towns of the Southwest and a number of municipalities in Eastern Samar from 1988 to 2002.

During the Second Great Rectification Movement, Ka Abon steadfastly stood for the correct line. This is despite a visit from members of the then



Visayas Commission to Samar to convince him to repudiate the Party leadership and join their faction. In 2003, he was assigned to the newly established Regional Peasant Bureau (RPB). Among the tasks the RPB focused on was achieving breakthroughs in socio-economic work in developing base areas. In 2010, he was assigned to the committee of a subregion, where he contributed in a major way through his grasp of the area's history, forces and masses.

In accordance with the principles of building a revolutionary family, Ka Abon took pains to bring his family close to the revolution. With patience, he was able to convince his wife to work full-time for the revolution as well. His two sons both became Red fighters, and martyrs of the revolution. His elder son Maurecio died in 1992, and his younger son Arnulfo died in 2008, both from serious illnesses.

Ka Abon was naturally jovial, humble and imbued with a positive outlook on life. In his four decades of continuous service, not once did his revolutionary standpoint falter. He calmly and lightly approached both personal and work-related issues. He objectively addressed problems and made efforts to resolve them by grasping their essence and through practical means. Thus, he was thoroughly loved by the comrades and the masses.

17 enemy elements killed, 22 wounded in gunbattles

Seventeen enemy elements were killed and 22 were wounded in gunbattles with Red fighters of the New People's Army (NPA) in various parts of the country from March 6 to April 10. There were no casualties reported on the NPA side.

In Ifugao and Kalinga. Five enemy elements were killed and four were wounded in two successive gunbattles. Three policemen were killed and three others were wounded in an ambush by people's guerrillas under the Nona del Rosario Command on patrolling elements of the Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT)-PNP in Asipulo, Ifugao on April 5. The ambushed SWAT unit was one of the best in the region, according to the Cordillera Police Regional Director.

After two days, two soldiers were killed and another one wounded in a firefight between Red fighters of the NPA Marcial Daggay Front and 17th IB troops in Barangay Apatan, Pinukpuk, Kalinga. The NPA was able to outmaneuver an attacking enemy platoon.

In Mindoro. Five soldiers

from the 76th IB were seriously wounded in a quickly executed military action launched by a seven-man NPA unit against an attacking military company in Sitio Lumintao, Barangay Tanyag, Calintaan, Occidental Mindoro on April 4.

In Bukidnon. Three policemen were wounded when Red fighters under the Mt. Kitanglad Subregional Command clashed with elements of the Regional Police Public Safety Battalion in Sitio Liboron, Barangay Sagarán, Talacag on April 10.

In Misamis Oriental. Eight Philippine Army soldiers were killed and four were wounded in five harassment operations by Red fighters of the NPA Eastern Misamis Oriental-Northeast Bukidnon Subregional Command against the 58th IB Alpha Coy detachment in Bangbang, Medina on March 24. Prior to this, a

CAFGU element was killed and three soldiers wounded when Red fighters seized the initiative and meted blows on the attacking enemy in Dugo-dugo, Pelaez, Claveria on March 20.

In Butuan City. A soldier under the Philippine Army 3rd Special Forces (SF) was killed when Red fighters sniped enemy elements occupying an abandoned temporary NPA encampment in Sitio Patagon, Anticala on March 7. The day before, two soldiers from the 3rd SF were wounded when people's guerrillas harassed the same camp.

In Surigao del Norte. Two soldiers were killed when Red fighters from Guerrilla Front 16 harassed elements of the 30th IB in Villariza, Malimono on March 6.

In Surigao del Sur. PO1 Ronald Palma was hit and wounded in a sniping operation conducted by people's guerrillas from Guerrilla Front 19 against policemen on a military operation in KM 7, Aras-asan, Cagwait town on March 6. AB

NPA releases 7 POW in Caraga

The New People's Army (NPA) released seven CAFGU elements on April 17 in two separate places in Surigao del Sur, days after they were detained for investigation.

The CAFGU elements were captured by the NPA in two separate incidents on April 15. Three of them were arrested when Red fighters attacked their detachment in Hinatuan, Surigao del Sur. On the same day, four other CAFGU elements were arrested by NPA Red fighters in a remote village in San Luis town, Agusan del Sur.

Before they were released, NDF-Mindanao spokesperson Jorge "Ka Oris" Madlos said that

"the prisoners of war would be subjected to a democratic process of investigation to determine the gravity of their crimes." The CAFGU elements were released after they were proven not to have committed serious crimes against the people and after having expressed remorse for their abuses against the masses.

Earlier, Red fighters arrested two policemen in Loreto, Agusan del Sur on April 14. PO1 Ronald Allan Muñoz and PO1 Nemuel Espina were captured in a cockpit while extorting from the people. They had been undergoing investigation for a number of days before they escaped on April 18. The NPA

command pointed out the weaknesses of the NPA custodial unit.

The NPA command said the two policemen were proven to have been involved in abusing their authority, engaging in extortion activities and intimidating the people. Nonetheless, they were not involved in serious human rights violations and were not guilty of any grave crimes against the masses.

Because of their escape, they are now considered fugitives from revolutionary law.

Meanwhile, NPA Red fighters raided the Dole Philippines banana packing plant in Claveria, Misamis Oriental on April 15, burning huge pieces of equipment. The NPA also burned down the Agrinanas Development Corp. packing plant in Libona, Bukidnon. AB

Military victimizes civilians in Comval and Mindoro

The fascist military's fangs are plain to see even as the US-Aquino regime's Oplan Bayanihan continues to be unmasked. Relentless military abuses against civilians have been reported in Compostela Valley and Mindoro this April. Meanwhile, a workers' protest was attacked in Quezon City.

In Compostela Valley. On April 6 at around 9:30 p.m., Nomer Ogaw, a member of the paramilitary Blackfighter group and an asset of the Military Intelligence Battalion shot and wounded Gary Rautraut, 32 and another unidentified civilian. The shooting occurred near the Dole Philippines packing house in Barangay Baguio, Baguio District in Davao City. Earlier, another civilian, Elias Acero was killed by soldiers of the 69th IB on April 8 at 7:20 p.m. in Barangay Dalisay, Panabo City. Acero's unidentified civilian companion was wounded.

In Mindoro. Two civilians were wounded, including a 7-year old child when soldiers from the 76th IB indiscriminately fired their weapons in Barangay Tanyag, Calintaan, Occidental Mindoro on the morning of April 4. The shooting took place even if the military's encounter with the NPA that day was long over.

Meanwhile, more than a hundred Buhid Mangyan minorities who feared the fascist military conducting operations were forced to evacuate the area on April 4. On April 5, a young boy was wounded when 76th IB troops shot him in Sitio Bato Singit, Barangay Manoot, Rizal town.

On March 29, soldiers arrested and detained seven civilians who were hunting in Tintingan, Barangay Manoot, Rizal.

In Metro Manila. Six workers were arrested and seven were wounded when goons hired by Pentagon Steel Corporation attacked a workers' protest picket on April 15 in Samson Road, Quezon City.

The workers accused Pablito Alcover, brother of anti-communist Rep. Pastor Alcover of masterminding the attack. Pablito heads the company's Human Resource Department. AB



Progressive groups slam boy's killing in ComVal

Members of the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (BAYAN), Children's Rehabilitation Center (CRC) and other supporters from Southern Tagalog launched a protest action and roundly assailed successive acts of violence by the military against civilians, including children. They launched a mass action right in front of Camp Aguinaldo, the headquarters of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

Prior to this, the 71st IB killed eight-year old Roque H. Antivo and wounded his two brothers Earl Jhun, 12, and Jeffrey Hernan, 13, in Sitio Kidaraan, Barangay Anitapan, Mabini town on April 3.

Roque and his brothers had just harvested vegetables from their stepfather Jeffry Hernan's farm when they were shot at by troops under the 71st IB whose commanding officer is Lt. Col. Jerry Borja.

The AFP claims that an encounter ensued between the military and the New People's Army (NPA) and that Roque and his two brothers were caught in the crossfire. But civilians who witnessed the shooting said that no encounter took place in the area.

KARAPATAN said Roque is the 16th victim of extrajudicial killing under the Aquino regime's Oplan Bayanihan. AB

Peasants oppose eviction from Stockfarm in Capiz

"Food, not bullets!" was the peasants' cry regarding the Aquino government's plans to evict them from Stockfarm in Dumarao, Capiz to give way to the construction of the Regional Training Center of the Philippine National Police (PNP)-Region 6.

The peasants several times manifested their strong opposition to the government's plans. They held dialogues, wrote petitions and launched several protest actions to assert their right to till the land. They said that genuine land reform must be implemented and the peasants' right to have land to till recognized to alleviate their hunger and poverty. On October 16, 2012, they joined a protest action in Iloilo City during World Food Day, in solidarity with various peasant leaders from all over the country.

For more than 12 years, at least 160 peasants have been tilling a 105-hectare area in Stockfarm that had been abandoned by the Bureau of Animal

Industry of the Department of Agriculture (BAI-DA). The land was clearly idle, said the peasants, who are members of the Katilingban sang mga Mangu nguma sa Capiz (KAMACA). They said that the government's plans to evict them and their families from Stockfarm is a violation of their right to a decent life.

Stockfarm formed part of a BAI-DA project called Dumarao Livestock Production Center in Barangay Bungsuhan, Dumarao. The 105-hectare area is part of a 120-hectare lot left over from the project after the land was subjected to the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program. Because it was idle land, the peasants began tilling it in the 1980s along with waging a legal struggle

to acquire it.

Problems arose in March 2012 when the PNP 605th Regional Mobile Battalion (RMB) began occupying the land, staying in the BAI-DA building. Lately, the villagers learned that the RMB-PNP had longterm plans of constructing the PNP Regional Training Center in the area. The PNP connived with Capiz Gov. Victor Tanco to try and convince the people to allow the RMB troops' presence, ostensibly for their own welfare.

But the peasants are firmly opposed to the idea. Neither do they believe the RMB-PNP troops' claims that they would be relocated to a 50-hectare lot should the construction of the PNP Regional Training Center push through. They are determined to defend their farms, which they have won through their collective struggle to occupy and till the idle land. **AB**

DPRK takes stand against US warmongering

Ever since the US declared its goal of "balancing" its armed strength in the Asia-Pacific under the aegis of "America's Pacific Century," it has been relentlessly meddling in various security concerns to expand its military power and presence in the region. Part of its scheme involves a systematic and continuous vilification and disinformation campaign against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) and whipping up war between the DPRK and the Republic of Korea (South Korea).

There are 28,500 American soldiers permanently stationed in South Korea. The US' military bases in South Korea have served as launching pads for US intervention in the Korean Pen-

insula and aggression against the DPRK. In March, the US stepped up its aggression against the DPRK by conducting combat maneuvers along the DPRK-South Korea border under

the guise of "military exercises," flying nuclear-capable B-2 stealth bombers.

In response to the US aggression, the DPRK declared the resumption of a state of war with South Korea and its readiness to use nuclear arms against South Korea and the US should there be an armed invasion.

The US invoked the DPRK's declaration in sending thousands of troops, additional warplanes, huge warships and other military equipment to the peninsula and the surrounding waters. The US claims that it was the DPRK that was calling for war, when all of the US' ac-



tions have in fact been calculated and form part of a calibrated plan by the Obama regime (called a "playbook") to project the US' armed strength in East Asia and encompass to the fullest extent possible, what it considers to be China's territories and fields of influence.

Among these maneuvers is the so-called "appropriate deterrence" against the DPRK agreed upon by the US and South Korea in October 2012. Its main content is the establishment of a "kill chain" against missile launching sites and other military installations being used by the DPRK for its own defense. The plans include launching US drones or satellites into DPRK air space to identify targets and sending South Korean war planes to bomb these targets. The "kill chain" will be set up in the last quarter of this year.

Part of the US' plans in South Korea is automatic retaliation against the DPRK by its joint forces using "armed strength ten times more lethal" than the slightest "provocation," whether or not there has

been a declaration of war. The US has already formed a special military unit that would penetrate the DPRK ostensibly to secure the country's nuclear facilities. During wartime, the US will automatically lead the South Korean armed forces.

In December 2012, the US claimed that the DPRK had launched a ballistic missile, when all it did was launch a satellite into space for scientific observation. The US invoked this lie at the United Nations (UN) to claim that the DPRK had violated a UN prohibition on ballistic missile testing, call for more stringent sanctions and force the country to shut down its nuclear development program.

In the face of all this, the DPRK and the Korean people are correct in resisting the US' and its co-conspirators' arm-twisting and provocations, and defending their national sovereignty and territory. They are correct in condemning the US and even the UN's hypocrisy in depriving the Korean people of the right to develop their nuclear capability for their own de-

velopment and defense.

DPRK officials aver that in the UN's entire history, there have been 2,000 nuclear tests and 9,000 satellite launches. The country with the most number of nuclear tests and satellite launches is the US. Meanwhile, only three of these nuclear tests and four of these satellite launches were undertaken by the DPRK. And yet the only country that has been sanctioned by the UN is the DPRK.

The DPRK reminds the international community of the fate that has befallen countries that succumbed to the US' bullying regarding the development of their own nuclear programs. Among them are Iraq and Libya, countries that lost their basic line of defense when they were invaded by the US and its allies.

The DPRK and the Korean people likewise remind everyone of the bombing by the US and its allies of their country in 1950-53, resulting in the death of 20% of their population and the destruction of 85% of their buildings. The DPRK has made it clear that it has long been calling for the Korean Peninsula to be nuclear-free, but that the US has vehemently refused to withdraw its more than 1,000 nuclear arms positioned in South Korea since the 1950s.

The DPRK knows that if it gives up its nuclear program, it will be easy for the US to enter and occupy its territory. It stands for the right to develop nuclear weapons for self-defense.

The DPRK and the Korean people have also renewed their call for US withdrawal from the peninsula, for the peaceful reunification of the two Koreas and the advancement of a sovereign and genuinely democratic foreign policy in East Asia. **AB**

SC lambasted for decision on partylist

The Makabayan Coalition roundly assailed a decision issued by the Supreme Court on April 2 allowing 41 groups to join the partylist elections.

Most of the groups in question are allied with the country's wealthy and powerful political parties. The Supreme Court has also allowed anyone to become a partylist nominee even if he or she does not belong to the sector being represented. It has also granted permission to other groups not belonging to the oppressed sectors to join the partylist elections.

Makabayan said that the partylist system would be monopolized by the powerful and the elite as a result of the Supreme Court decision. With the tiny space granted to the people already the result of mere tokenism, the decision would allow the wealthy and the political dynasties to completely control Congress. Makabayan called on the

Supreme Court to reverse its decision.

Meanwhile, progressive groups protested at the office of the Commission on Elections (COMELEC) because of the looming disqualification of PISTON and Kabataan Partylist. Makabayan said this constituted harassment against progressive parties that truly represented their sector. It also accused the Aquino regime of suppressing them to prevent them from joining the elections, even as the COMELEC favored pro-Aquino groups like Akbayan, Ako Bicol and Anak Mindanao.

The protesters also assailed a series of attacks against progressive parties, among them the arrest of Katribu Party members in Palawan, the Red-baiting of members of the Kabataan Party in Baguio City and the February killing in Compostela Valley of Cristina Jose, a member of Bayan Muna. AB