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Editorial

End Aquino's corrupt, puppet and brutal rule

Ever since Benigno Aquino III was exposed as the Pork Barrel King and his criminal negligence of the people's welfare bared in the face of successive disasters last year, the Filipino people's demand for an end to his corrupt, puppet and brutal reign has gained strength and breadth.

The Filipino people are thoroughly fed up with three years of Aquino's lies about his so-called clean governance and delivery of public services to the people. Gross corruption is as brazen as ever, especially in the form of favors given by the Aquino government to big businessmen for project contracts.

Despite Aquino's protestations, it has also come to light how he has been using hundreds of billions of pesos of Malacañang funds to bribe politicians into hewing to his set agenda, such as the ouster of former Supreme Court chief justice Renato Corona.

The demand for Aquino's ouster or forcible resignation grows stronger and wider as the ruling regime blocks genuine land reform and landgrabbing cases mount, including the forcible eviction of peasants from the Aquino-Cojuangco-owned Hacienda Luisita no less.

Despite the toiling masses' abject poverty, Aquino persists in turning a deaf ear to the demand for raising the workers' daily minimum wage. He contin-

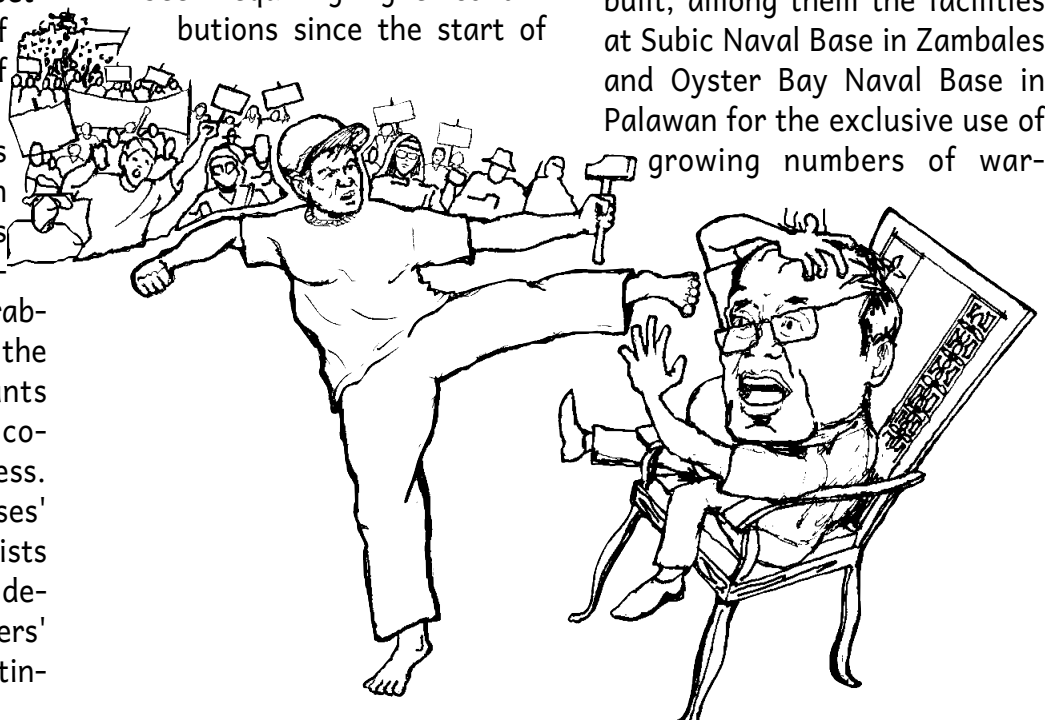
ues to reject demands for national industrialization. The widespread problem of a lack of decent and regular work bears heavily on the people.

The prices of food, oil, electricity and other commodities and services are on a swift, upward spiral. Urban poor communities are being demolished at a rapid pace to give way to infrastructure projects of big corporations and businessmen close to Aquino.

The SSS and Philhealth have been requiring higher contributions since the start of

the year after executives of these government-controlled corporations received million-peso bonuses. Aquino justified these moves as part of a package of upgraded services. In fact, it is a cover-up for the dwindling budgets being allocated to health and other social services.

Under Aquino, US military basing in the Philippines has been strengthened and broadened. Thousands of American troops are stationed on a rotational basis at any given time in the Philippines and are linked to thousands of other American troops in various other US bases in the Asia-Pacific. More military bases for the US are being built, among them the facilities at Subic Naval Base in Zambales and Oyster Bay Naval Base in Palawan for the exclusive use of growing numbers of war-



ships, jetfighters and other US war materiel.

To comply with the requirements for Philippine membership in the US-led Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement, a number of Aquino's minions in Congress are maneuvering to effect amendments to the 1987 constitution. They call for the further surrender of Philippine national patrimony to provide a wider berth for foreign capitalist investors to own land, run businesses, engage in plunder and amass profits.

With US support, the Aquino regime is relying further on military suppression to prevent the people from launching widespread protests and wage resistance to corruption, puppetry and antipeople policies. The Aquino regime has failed in its declared objective of reducing the New People's Army to inconsequentiality by 2013. In a bid to suppress the Filipino people's mass struggles and armed struggle, we can expect more brutal military onslaughts and abuses in times to come.

It is not only the toiling masses who are completely fed up with the Aquino regime, but even the middle strata of small professionals, teachers, government employees, the youth, the media and small- and medium-scale businessmen. They are disgusted with the never-ending shibboleths and gimmickry which Aquino and his PR experts have failed to translate into actual changes in the people's lives. Their loathing for the Aquino regime is extreme in the face of their poverty even as the ruling classes wallow in wealth and luxury.

Conditions are favorable for rapidly building the people's unity against the Aquino regime. Conflicts among rival factions of the ruling class will rear their ugly heads anew and further cause Aquino's isolation from the people.

Last year, Aquino could not help but be at the center of the maelstrom of the people's anger

against the pork barrel and corruption and against the government's failure to swiftly address the people's needs during disasters. This year, there is further cause to make Aquino the narrowest target of the people's rage through protests and mass struggles.


The people's growing demands for an end to Aquino's rule will lead him and his clique to cling more fiercely to power. Aquino will do everything to remain in power, not only until 2016, but beyond, in order to avoid being held to account for plunder and for crimes against humanity because of his armed forces' brutal suppression of the people.

All the revolutionary and progressive forces must train their energies into realizing the Filipino people's demand for the ouster or forcible resignation of Benigno Aquino III. The youth, the workers, the urban poor and other sectors must be mobilized in ever bigger protest movements against corruption and Aquino's policies that have been a bane to the people.

Under the CPP's direction, the NPA must launch more frequent and bigger tactical offensives to annihilate weak enemy units and seize more weapons. In the coming years, all NPA commands must plan to surpass the previous levels of arms seizures from the reactionary military, paramilitary and police forces.

Strengthening the movement to put an end to Aquino's corrupt, puppet and brutal rule must be undertaken alongside the intensification of people's war nationwide. The CPP must lead the intensification of revolutionary armed struggle while advancing struggles for land reform and consolidating the mass base.



	
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Victories in Mindanao hailed

The revolutionary forces in Mindanao successfully held gatherings in various parts of the island to celebrate the 45th anniversary of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) on December 26. In accordance with the CPP's call, all the celebrations began with the singing of the Internationale and raising the Party's hammer and sickle flag while Red fighters were in formation.

The main gathering was held in San Luis, Agusan del Sur and led by Comrade Jorge "Ka Oris" Madlos, spokesperson of the National Democratic Front-Mindanao and the host forces of the North Central Mindanao Region.

A thousand peasants from neighboring villages trekked to the venue to attend the gathering. Despite the threats and the checkpoints set up by the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and the difficult travel due to the muddy and pothole-filled roads, hundreds of visitors from the cities also thronged to the site. Ka Oris praised the attendees' perseverance.

In a statement, Ka Oris said that there were up to ten battalions of the NPA's regular guerrilla fighters organized in platoon formations all over Mindanao. This is aside from the people's militia found in

their respective guerrilla zones.

He said that the establishment of Party committees that have influence over more than 2,000 villages in 200 towns in 19 provinces of Mindanao provides favorable conditions for launching NPA tactical offensives on various levels and in pursuit of various objectives.

From 250 tactical offensives all over Mindanao in 2010, the number grew to 350 in 2011; 400 in 2012; and more than 400 in 2013.

The revolutionary movement in the island continues to persevere in reaching a sufficient expanse of territory and recruiting enough Red fighters to achieve the strategic stalemate, said Ka Oris.

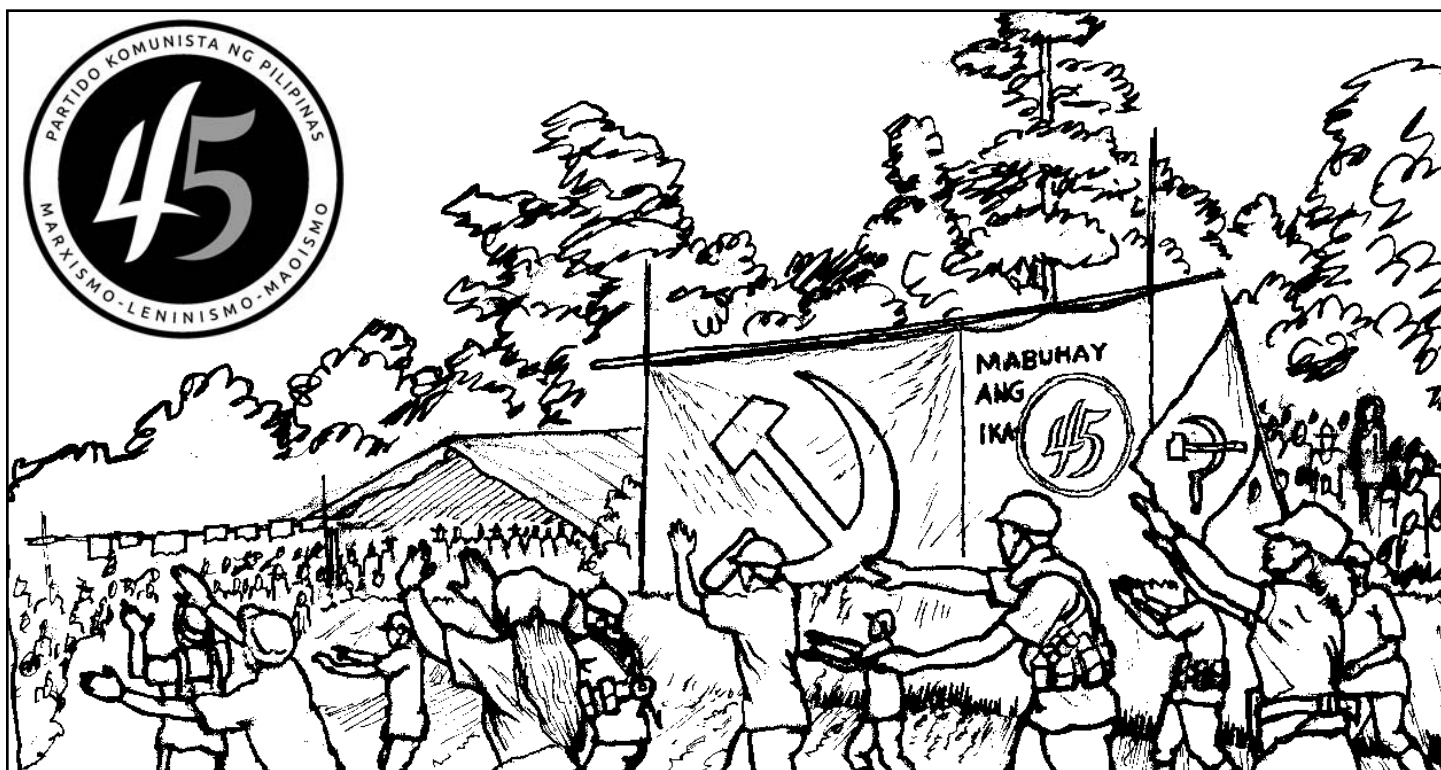
With continuing improvements in ideological, political and organizational work, the

people's war is sure to reach the level of strategic stalemate, if not in this decade, then in the next.

Meanwhile, Ka Norcen, spokesperson of North Central Mindanao Region relayed the outstanding victories achieved by the revolutionary forces in the region in 2013. His report stating that more than a hundred tactical offensives were launched by the NPA was met by cries of "Long live the NPA!"

One of the tactical offensives that received enthusiastic applause was the punitive measure meted by the NPA on the DOLE multinational company. A dramatization by cultural activists showed how the masses congratulated the Red fighters on this victory.

Ka Norcen shared how the Party committees within the NPA, the Red fighters, revolutionary masses and allied organizations are assiduously persevering to sustain if not surpass the victories attained in 2013 and contribute to the Party's campaign to complete the requisites for the strategic stalemate. AB



SMR holds relevant celebration of Party anniversary

On December 26, Party committees, units of the New People's Army (NPA) and the revolutionary people of Southern Mindanao Region successfully celebrated the 45th anniversary of the Communist Party of the Philippines.

In Subregion 4, the celebration was doubly significant as it achieved gains in building the guerrilla base and advancing agrarian revolution in their area of operations.

The celebration was begun at dawn with the gathered fighters and peasants flying 45 paper lanterns. The lanterns symbolized 45 years of the Communist Party of the Philippines' close guidance over the revolutionary movement in the area.

The attendees likewise paid tribute to the martyrs of the revolution. A poem of salute was read and dedicated to the Party. Earlier, the wedding of five pairs of comrades had been held—two from the NPA and three from the local Party branch.

By 8 a.m., five platoons of NPA regulars and a platoon of the people's militia's command unit from seven villages held a parade of colors. This was followed by a fancy drill performed by a platoon. A program was held where a representative from the Subregion's Party Committee described the current situation, the gains achieved by the revolutionary movement in the area in 2013 and the challenges in sustaining and further advancing the revolution's tasks in the coming years.

One of the subregion's most striking advances last year was the establishment in close succession of organs of political power in its guerrilla base. This was accomplished despite intense militarization in the area.

The establishment of barrio revolutionary committees (BRC), and eventually, the municipal revolutionary committee (MRC) were a response to the Party's call in the region to fast-track the building and consolidation of the guerrilla base to further advance the revolution. At the start of the year, NPA units established full-fledged mass organizations of the peasantry, women and youth from the barrio level towards the municipal level. Afterwards, the BRC and its committees were rapidly established. By the second half of the year, the coordinating units of the people's militia at the municipal level had been established, and by the end of the year, it became possible to establish the

MRC.

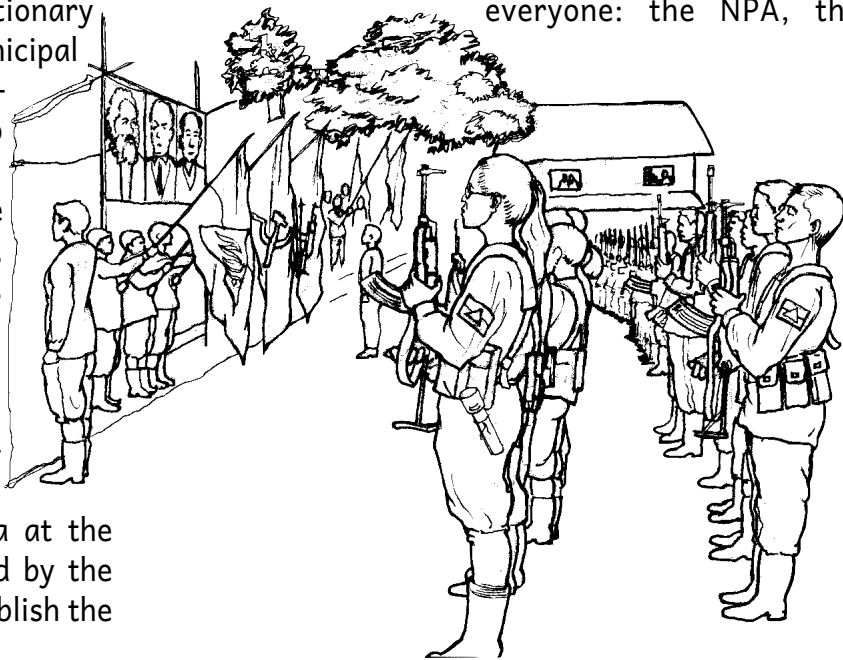
In these bases, a widespread food production campaign was launched as an alternative to the people's usual livelihood which relied on selling wood aside some limited agriculture. At present, all the villages with BRCs already have communal farms. Individual farms also improved through *luso* or cooperation. Because alternative sources of livelihood were available, small-scale logging has virtually disappeared.

Another of SR4's gains was launching more than 52 tactical offensives in 2013. The enemy suffered casualties of up to a company (dead and wounded). In addition, the NPA in the subregion took seven prisoners of war. In contrast, seven were martyred and two were wounded on the NPA side.

The number of Red fighters continued to grow. In 2013, two more platoons were established in the subregion.

The day-long celebration was lively and colorful. One of the more striking activities was a championship basketball game between teams from various BRCs. The basketball competition began December 21. Teams of Red fighters also played exhibition games. Aside from basketball, volleyball and other sports competitions were held for the youth and children. These formed part of the BRCs' sports program.

The final part of the anniversary activities was solidarity night where each village and NPA platoon performed. The various tribes also presented dances and played native musical instruments. The program ended with a native dance joined by everyone: the NPA, the



masses and visitors.

In Subregion 1, more than 800 gathered to celebrate the anniversary and hail the establishment of the local MRC in their area.

According to Ka Sixto, an officer of the newly established MRC, they have many gains to celebrate, especially after the devastation wrought by typhoon Pablo in 2012.

"We were able to rise from the ruins caused by Pablo, not because of help from the reactionary government, but with the cooperation of the New People's Army, the mass organizations and the Party," according to Ka Sixto. The occasion is so joyous, he added, because from the very pitiful conditions during the last anniversary, the people's situation has brightened.

Among the MRC's gains was

the operation of communal farms run by the BRC and the committees under it. After the storm, the people in the area suffered from severe hunger. But now, their communities are prospering after two harvests from their individual and communal farms. In fact, they already have a corn mill. They also have health centers, potable water systems and schools. They have also begun planting trees to regenerate the forests denuded by big logging concessionaires in the past decades.

The people are aware that their work is not over with the MRC's establishment. Ka Sixto added that the continued expansion and consolidation of their MRC is a challenge to them, and so is extending assistance in forming other MRCs in their subregion.

"We want to win the peo-

ple's democratic revolution on the basis of the unity of the oppressed people," he said, "in order to seize state power and establish a government that genuinely serves the poor."

In Subregion 5, up to 400 gathered to celebrate the anniversary. A cultural presentation was held, depicting the peasant masses' condition in the face of widespread landgrabbing, militarization, human rights violations and other effects of Oplan Bayanihan in the area.

The Central Committee's anniversary message was discussed, with emphasis on the tasks and challenges in the coming years. The program ended with the audience collectively reading their pledge and reiterating their revolutionary standpoint and with cries of "Long live the Communist Party of the Philippines!" **AB**

On the CPP's 45th anniversary

30 years of the Party's leadership in NEMR

In 2013, the Filipino people marked not only the 45th year of the Communist Party of the Philippines' (CPP) leadership over the people's democratic revolution. They likewise celebrated the 30th year of the CPP's leadership in the Northeastern Mindanao Region (NEMR).

NEMR is composed of the larger part of Agusan del Norte, Agusan del Sur, Surigao del Norte and Surigao del Sur provinces. It is roughly equivalent to the Caraga administrative region under the reactionary government.

In its 30 years of leadership in NEMR, the Party has made significant contributions to the overall development of the people's democratic revolution in Mindanao and nationwide.

In particular, it has built a

revolutionary mass base in the region's upland areas that are economically, politically, militarily and culturally developed. In these areas, revolutionary mass organizations are alive and serve as conduits of the people's strength. Local Party branches are able to lead despite relentless enemy attacks.

Because of the Party's leadership and the people's revolutionary action, hunger has been solved in these areas. The masses are healthy, espe-

cially the youth. This was accomplished through a mass campaign to convince the people to turn their backs on working like slaves for the mining and logging companies and resume farming and developing production. This is a major achievement of the revolutionary movement, given that the reactionary government's own statistics reveal that Caraga has one of the highest malnutrition rates nationwide (49.5%).

Unlike before, the new generation of revolutionary people in NEMR's uplands are now literate and more knowledgeable in various fields. This is the result of efforts by the people's democratic government to set up schools to service children in areas encompassed by Red power. This stands in stark contrast to the reactionary government's gross negligence of the

Caraga Region, which has the third highest rate of out-of-school children (76.6%).

Simultaneously, the people in the revolutionary bases have improved livelihoods due to agrarian revolution. Up to 4,220 families in the entire region have been given land to till for free. Their farms are in mountainous areas, mostly in former logging concessions where the NPA is now able to control the felling of trees. These areas which used to be scenes of destruction in the hands of commercial loggers are now developed production bases that are able to address the food needs of both the masses and the NPA. Farming families are also able to meet their other needs by planting cash crops. In the NEMR, this is known as "*ekonomiyang sarang sa kaulingon ug panggubat*" or a self-reliant war economy.

The Party and the NPA now operate in all the upland areas of NEMR, with only a small portion of the plains and coastal areas remaining as expansion areas.

All the 11 guerrilla fronts are now linked, affording more

favorable areas of maneuver for the more than 30 NPA guerrilla units, most of them platoon-size formations. Some are company-size formations.

The number of Party members has increased three-fold since 2001. The NPA has doubled in size and the number of high-powered rifles tripled in the same period. There are more than 1,500 people's militia members assisting the NPA platoons in their tasks.

Still among the NPA's most striking victories are the simultaneous punitive raids on three big mining corporations in October 2011: the Taganito HPAL Nickel Corp., Taganito Mining Corp. and Platinum Group Metals Corp. These big tactical offensives have shaken the imperialists and the Aquino government not only because of the blows they meted on the operations of these companies but due to the high level of coordination demonstrated by the NPA. These tactical offensives also boosted the masses' struggle against widespread mining that has wrought havoc on the environment and the people's livelihoods.

The people in the countryside courageously and resoundingly denounced in the urban areas the repressive military operations whose only aim is to thwart these revolutionary advances and perpetuate the masses' exploitation and oppression in the hands of the imperialists and local ruling classes. The people in the towns and cities refused to keep silent amid violations of their rights and the reactionary state's criminal neglect of their welfare. With the Party's leadership, their militancy continues to heighten. The people of NEMR have also contributed to the progressive protest movement against the US-Aquino government's corruption.

As they hailed their victories, the Party in NEMR called for more educated youth from the towns and cities to hie to the countryside to help administer the growing NPA formations comprised mainly of peasants. This, in the face of continuing efforts to complete all the requisites in order for people's war to make the leap towards the strategic stalemate. **AB**

Activists simultaneously unfurl CPP streamers

Activists in the Northeastern Mindanao Region (NEMR) simultaneously and coordinatedly unfurled CPP streamers, painted slogans and put up revolutionary posters in three of the region's cities (Butuan, Surigao and Tandag) as well as in all of NEMR's 52 towns last December 26.

According to initial reports, the activists succeeded in displaying 200 streamers in towns and other populated areas of the regions. Three out of the 20 streamers unfurled in the cities were three meters long. A hundred and fifty red flags were posted in municipal buildings and population centers, while streamers bearing revolutionary slogans were cast afloat in major rivers. Leaflets with the CPP statement on its 45th anniversary were

scattered in areas frequented by the public, with the Party message read over radio stations in the region. Activists were also mobilized for "text brigades."

Meanwhile, Party members, activists and supporters of the revolutionary movement marched along Commonwealth Avenue in Quezon City on December 26, waving CPP and NDFP flags and unfurling streamers emblazoned with revolutionary slogans. Earlier, some 500 activists likewise marched along busy Carriedo St. in Quiapo, Manila on December 19 to mark the Party's anniversary. A short cultural presentation was held before the lightning rally ended.

A similar lightning rally was also conducted in Cubao, Quezon City. **AB**

Celebration in Sierra Madre

Hundreds of people from various places gathered on December 26 in a guerrilla front in the Southern Tagalog (ST) portion of the Sierra Madre to celebrate the 45th anniversary of the Communist Party of the Philippines. The Sierra Madre, which winds through the provinces of Cagayan, Quezon, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal, Bulacan, Aurora and Nueva Ecija is not only Luzon's longest mountain range but an area with a long revolutionary history as well.

In the Sierra Madre, a program was held with the local Party unit calling for the intensification of the struggle against the US-Aquino regime until its ouster and for the further advance of armed struggle in the region. The revolutionary forces in the region are aware of the daunting challenges that lie ahead of them, especially in confronting the counterrevolutionary and antipeople Oplan Bayanihan of the US-Aquino regime. The Red fighters lit candles to salute comrades who had lost their lives for the revolution.

In a general statement, the regional Party committee in Southern Tagalog presented the cumulative victories achieved by the revolutionary movement in the region which serve as the significant foundation for the region's contribution to advancing people's war in the coming years.

The CPP-ST cited the active role of the region's forces in exposing and opposing Benigno Aquino III's antipeople and anti-democratic regime. Its progressive organizations were at the forefront of rallies, pickets, people's camps, caravans, symbolic protests and other forms of mass actions in Metro Manila in 2013.

As a result, about 15,000 were added to the membership of open people's organizations. Organizers in the open and underground mass movement have been able to overcome the nar-

row-based, piecemeal and shallow method of organizing and have learned how to correctly combine fast-paced and broad-based organizing and solidly building the underground movement. The integration of urban-based activists in the armed struggle is picking up once more. Bigger numbers are expressing readiness to join the New People's Army (NPA) and the armed struggle.

Along with the advance of the mass movement, the NPA and the revolutionary masses continue to thwart the brutality of Oplan Bayanihan in the guerrilla fronts. NPA units are persevering in their task of launching tactical offensives against weak sections of operating enemy troops. They are rapidly regaining their strength and step-by-step, restoring tasks to their former level in guerrilla fronts that had experienced setbacks in the past. NPA units are warmly welcomed in areas being revisited and recovered; and the masses express their desire to be organized again and their revolutionary mass organizations rebuilt.

The guerrilla fronts of Rizal and North Quezon continue to reap gains in resisting and thwarting the enemy's brutal search and destroy operations. Guerrilla forces meted heavy blows on the com-

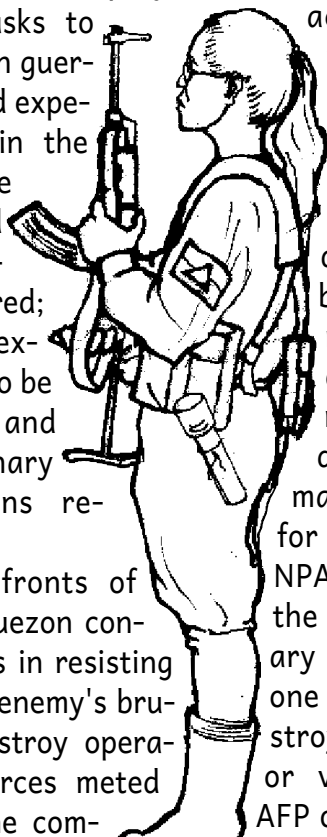
bat operations of the 16th and 78th IBs and the PNP-SAF from May to June and in November in the interior villages of General Nakar, Quezon and in the towns of Tanay and Montalban in Rizal.

Meanwhile, NPA units in Mindoro island dealt multiple blows on operating enemy troops.

Guerrilla fronts in Palawan island as well as in Batangas, Laguna and South Quezon-Bondoc Peninsula also continue to achieve gains.

Even amid the relentless and brutal havoc being wreaked by Oplan Bayanihan in the guerrilla fronts, the Party continues to advance in building the revolutionary mass base in the countryside. In guerrilla fronts severely affected by the enemy's terror and suppression campaigns, the people have gradually overcome their fear and begun to organize themselves into open and underground organizations and launch antifeudal struggles.

In areas undergoing consolidation and where gains in agrarian revolution have been achieved, full-fledged mass organizations are being built anew as well as people's militia and self-defense units. Even in areas that had been devastated by the enemy, but where the peasant masses enjoy benefits due to revolutionary land reform such as free land distribution, it is the masses themselves who look for ways to link up with the NPA units. It is a measure of the depth of the revolutionary movement's influence—one which could never be destroyed by whatever psywar or violence the mercenary AFP or PNP could unleash. **AB**



A fiery finish to 2013

NPA seizes 26 firearms in WMR

Red fighters in Western Mindanao Region (WMR) made a fiery finish to 2013 in simultaneous attacks by company-size forces of the New People's Army (NPA) on two police headquarters in Misamis Occidental and Zamboanga del Sur at dawn of December 14.

An NPA platoon raided the local headquarters of the Philippine National Police (PNP) in Don Victoriano Chiongbian, Misamis Occidental while a bigger group of Red fighters attacked the PNP station in Josefina, Zamboanga del Sur some eight kilometers away.

At exactly 5:23 a.m., the NPA swiftly swooped down on the Don Victoriano station manned by 14 policemen, including ten who belonged to the elite SWAT unit. The Red fighters played a ruse by wearing Philippine Army uniforms. In a span of ten minutes, thousands of rounds of ammunition were seized as well as 26 firearms of various caliber. The arms seizure consisted of an M60 machine gun, an M203 grenade launcher, 12 M16 rifles and 12 short arms.

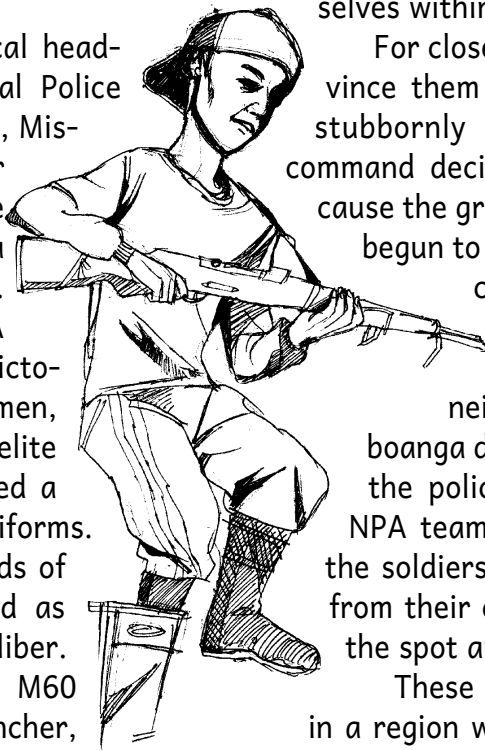
Meanwhile, at around 6 a.m. of the same

day, a bigger NPA troop used the same tactic against six policemen who were positioned at the PNP headquarters in Josefina. The policemen noticed that the men who arrived were not real Philippine Army soldiers and barricaded themselves within the station.

For close to an hour, the NPA tried to convince them to surrender. But the policemen stubbornly refused. Nonetheless, the NPA command decided to call off the offensive because the growing number of civilians that had begun to mill around could be caught in the crossfire.

Afterwards, a platoon under the 55th IB coming from the neighboring town of Molave, Zamboanga del Sur was dispatched to reinforce the policemen. They were blocked by an NPA team that detonated explosives along the soldiers' path just a few hundred meters from their camp. Five soldiers were killed on the spot and several others were wounded.

These tactical offensives were launched in a region where the enemy had long considered the revolutionary movement as a crushed and spent force. AB



CPP-Panay takes the lead in the island's rehabilitation work

We will lead the rehabilitation of those who have been devastated by typhoon Yolanda! This is the main content of the program drafted by the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) in Panay for the year in the face of the massive loss of livelihood caused by supertyphoon Yolanda's onslaught in the island and other parts of the Visayas.

Particularly in Panay, the storm has further made destitute an already impoverished people. The livelihoods of up to 70% or 2.8 million out of the island's total population of four million have been severely affected. Most of the victims are poor farmers and fisherfolk from Capiz, Aklan, northern Iloilo and northern Antique. Adding to their woes is the Aquino

regime's incompetence and its criminal negligence.

Up to ₱10.9 billion worth of crops have been destroyed in central and northern Panay, ₱1.5 billion of which are rice crops. The devastation has affected at least 50,000 farmers. Up to 4,000 sea vessels and thousands of fishing equipment were either destroyed or swept out to sea. Up to 20,000

hectares of fishponds were likewise ruined, and overall, the fisheries sector sustained ₱1.5 billion in losses.

In these tragic circumstances, it is the Party's duty in Panay to lead the people's efforts in recovering from the devastation even as it takes the Aquino regime to account for its negligence. This is the urgent task which the Party and the progressive and revolutionary forces in the island must accomplish, said CPP-Panay spokesperson Ka Concha Araneta, on the occasion of the Party's 45th anniversary.

Firstly, the movement must

sustain, expand and shoulder the recovery of the millions of typhoon victims in the island. The entire force of the revolution and elements under its influence must be mobilized to rebuild in an organized manner houses, farms, fishponds and other sources of livelihood that have been ruined. Those who are most in need of food and shelter must come first. The movement must likewise raise all the resources it could muster to assist the victims in resuming their normal lives. Planting durable cash crops comes next, in order to fast-track the process of recovery. The Party once again called on the masses to plant on idle lands of landlords, on land seized by the 3rd ID from the Tumanduk people and on land foreclosed by the banks.

An effective and more definitive disaster preparedness movement must be launched especially in areas prone to typhoons, floods, earthquakes and other calamities.

Secondly, the people must demand that the Aquino regime provide the resources and services needed for them to recover, because these come from the taxes they have been paying. All forms of pork barrel must be abol-



ished, especially the funds held by Aquino worth more than a trillion pesos and allot this for the rehabilitation of the typhoon victims' livelihoods.

Even as we ask for help from foreigners, the people must nonetheless demand a moratorium on debt payments in order to rechannel debt service to recovery. Destructive projects like the construction of the Jalaur River Dam must also be stopped and the funds used instead for rehabilitation efforts.

Merchant-usurers who persist in demanding debt payments from typhoon victims must be opposed. The people must demand lower interest on loans from the government and the usurers.

Lastly, the we must resist the perpetuation of Oplan Bayanihan by the regime and the latter's expenditures on weapons and military equipment for the AFP, such as new helicopters, drones, jets and other war materiel designed to intensify its attacks on the revolutionary forces. Aquino must be condemned for using relief and rehabilitation work as pretexts for spending on these war materiel.

The New People's Army's fighting ability must be further enhanced to enable it to thwart the Aquino regime from waging war on the suffering people. AB

Oplan Bayanihan fails in Negros

Oplan Bayanihan has failed to crush the revolutionary movement in Negros despite its having been made a national priority by the US-Aquino regime, said Juanito Magbanua II, spokesperson of the Apolinario (Boy) Gatmaitan Command of the New People's Army in Negros in relation to the 45th anniversary of the reestablishment of the Communist Party of the Philippines.

With the all-out implementation of the Armed Forces of the Philippines' (AFP) "triad operations" consisting of intelligence, "civil-military" and combat operations in the countryside and urban areas, the regime has mobilized the entire local government and deployed to Negros an entire Civil Military Operations battalion and the bulk of the Intelligence Service of the AFP (ISAFP) in

Western Visayas. For a more zealous intelligence build-up against the armed movement and the legal democratic movement in the urban areas, the Military Intelligence Battalion (MIB) and the Military Intelli-

gence Company have been stationed in Bacolod City.

There have been up to 39 companies of the Philippine Army, Division Reconnaissance Company (DRC), Scout Rangers, Regional Mobile Group (RMG), Provincial Mobile Group (PMG),



CMO and 12th IB CAFGU Handler deployed in Negros since 2010. This is aside from forces of the Philippine National Police (PNP) and Special Action Force (SAF) deployed in the island's four guerrilla fronts.

Despite the deployment of such a huge enemy force, the AFP has failed to destroy even a single guerrilla front in Negros. Instead, the theater of war has expanded for the armed revolutionary forces.

Mass organizations are being revitalized. The mass base continues to be expanded, while being assiduously consolidated by forming and operating barrio organizing committees and full-fledged mass organizations in many villages. The revolutionary forces are now focused on building the municipal chapters of full-fledged mass organizations. A number of barrio revolutionary committees are ready to be formed.

The mass base has been steeled in antifeudal, anti-imperialist and antifascist mass struggles, among them the establishment of land cultivation areas (LCA) which have gained momentum and launching struggles to raise the wages of farmers and farm workers and raise the farm-gate prices of agricultural products, antimining struggles and campaigns against hunger and landgrabbing.

Through small and big tactical offensives launched by the Red fighters in the region, the guerrilla army has been able to accumulate enough high-powered rifles to arm an NPA company and inflict at least 200 casualties on the enemy. Thus, the morale of NPA Red fighters remains high as they fight the mercenary troops of the AFP and the class enemies. **AB**

Gains in Southwest Negros

The New People's Army (NPA) in the Southwest Negros Front has maintained its size despite intense military operations, the deceptive Peace and Development Program, the enemy's surrender drives and other grand and intricate psywar operations of the reactionary government, said Ka Andrea Guerrero, spokesperson of the front's Armando Sumayang, Jr. Command.

The membership of the people's militia continues to grow. The people's militia assists the NPA in propaganda work among the masses, in mobilizing and organizing them and in launching tactical offensives. With the organized masses and allies' active participation, the NPA was able to mete punishment on the destructive Philex Mining Corporation. Basic tactical offensives were launched against the 47th IB, seizing five high-powered firearms, including a K3 machine gun, rounds of ammunition and military equipment.

More than a thousand people have benefited from continuing mass struggles to raise the price of coffee, hike the wages of farmers and farm workers, till and develop idle lands, *dagyaw* (cooperation) and the antimining movement, among others. These served as the wellspring of Red fighters for the NPA and members for the Party.

The farmers also continued struggling against the seizure of their land by capitalist investors in oil palm plantations.

The peasant masses also courageously fought landlords such as the Novero family in Barangay Dancalan, Ilog and father and son Pablito "Jean" and John Paul Sola of Barangay Camansi, Kabankalan who have been seizing their land. The Solas enjoy the protection of the Regional Public Safety Maneuver Battalion (ROSMB) which is also based in Barangay Camansi. **AB**

The crimes of Demetrio Capilastique Jr.

Demetrio "Hugo" Capilastique Jr., leader of the bandit RPA-ABB in Panay, was facing at least 14 murder cases when he was killed on the afternoon of December 30 in Barangay Linayuan, Badiangan, Iloilo after he fought it out with an NPA team that was sent to arrest him. Capilastique's arrest had been ordered by the Revolutionary People's Court in Panay.

Capilastique was a notorious bandit and counterrevolutionary. He was a military agent who did "dirty jobs" for the AFP and PNP.

In collusion with the AFP and PNP, Capilastique and Nilo de la Cruz, Jr., another RPA-ABB leader, planned the abduction of Luisa Posa and Nilo Arado in Oton town, Iloilo on April 12, 2007. The two victims

were mass leaders of progressive organizations in Panay. They remain missing to date.

Capilastique also faced murder charges for the killing of several civilians in Iloilo on suspicion that they were supporters of the revolutionary movement. Among the RPA-ABB's victims were Ruel Tamano of Isauan, Tigbauan (1994); Virgilio Tubellera of

Sitio Lomboy, Barangay Bagacay, Tigbauan (1995); Rogelio Tabion of Barangay Hamog, Leon (1996); Hernani Templo of Sitio Lomboy (1998); Manuel Tacan of Barangay Ayubo, Tubungan (1998); Fred Cayapa of Cansilayan, Tigbauan (2001); Jimmy Gilange of Binanwaan, Camanggaan, Guimbal (2002); and Antonio and his son Hilbert Camiring of Pepe, Leon (2006).

Capilastique was also involved in killing Atty. Edgar Calizo of Kalibo, Aklan in 2004. He was also charged for the murder of Jessie Cabalfin of Barangay Buga, Leon in 2005 after the victim refused to give in to the RPA-ABB's extortion.

Murder complaints have likewise been filed against Capilastique for the killings of Jerry Cola-ha, Juanito Lutero and Miao Aportadera in 1998. The three victims opposed the quarrying operations being run by the RPA-ABB along the Suage River in Janiuay, Iloilo.

Capilastique was also involved in the kidnapping of Jefferson Tan in 2002; and the kidnap-slay of Manila-based mountaineer Leovic Gutierrez in 2003.

He also faced mutiny charges for being one of the leaders of the demolition campaign against the CPP in Panay in 1994. **AB**

AFP violates own ceasefire

Contrary to the AFP's announcement that it would suspend offensive military operations from December 21 to the middle of January 2014, there were no changes in its troop movements.

In Bukidnon, two six-by-six trucks filled with 8th IB troops entered Bolunay, Impasug-ong right on December 21st. By noon of December 26, more troops aboard three six-by-six trucks entered through Sitio Ulayanon, Calabugao, Impasug-ong while another platoon positioned itself at the center of Calabugao. The scheduled celebration of the Party anniversary in the area was cancelled for the safety of the people and allies who had gathered.

It is the people who are the target of such a large number of troops concentrated in a handful of sitios in two barangays of Impasug-ong. In these operations which began as early as October, villagers suspected of supporting the NPA or having relatives in the Red army are threatened and interrogated.

By 6 p.m. of December 26, the NPA sniped the operating military troops that had just gathered at the daycare center and health center at Sitio Ulayanon, as part of the Red fighters' active defense against the 8th IB's continuing offen-

sives. A soldier was killed.

In Southern Mindanao, the AFP massively deployed troops in several hinterland barangays.

Even before the ceasefire was announced, elements of the 67th IB positioned an APC and two howitzer cannons at Spur-2, Barangay Ngan, in Compostela town, Compostela Valley on December 19, with the "peace and development teams" remaining in active mode in Compostela town; Trento, Agusan del Sur; and in Cateel and Boston in Davao Oriental.

The 71st IB also put up checkpoints in barangays Masara and Elizalde in Maco town and in the villages of Andili and Limbo in Mawab town, both in Compostela Valley. At around 7 p.m. of December 22, elements of the 84th IB arrived in Marahan, Marilog District, Davao City and withdrew from Barangay Ladayon in Arakan, North Cotabato to go towards Mt. Sinaka.

These troop deployments by the 10th ID are actually shrewd offensive maneuvers by the AFP against areas it considers to be strongholds of the revolutionary

movement. They are provocative and raise the risk of armed engagements with the NPA.

On top of this, the 66th IB set up checkpoints in various barangays in New Bataan, Compostela Valley. On December 24, soldiers accosted everyone passing through Barangay San Miguel, and on December 26, took videos and photographs of everyone aboard motorcycles as they passed through Purok 3A, Cabinuangan. The day after, the 72nd and 66th IB roamed around Barangay Kahayag and surrounded the house of a civilian resident of Purok 6.

Meanwhile, in Bicol, the 42nd IB's Peace and Development Teams (PDT) continue to be posted in the villages of Antolon, Patag and Poloan in Caramoan town, Camarines Sur. In Albay, the 2nd IB's PDT have been maintaining its posts in Villapaz and Sinarangan in Jovellar town; in Mamlad, Pioduran; and Lumacao, Guinobatan. In Sorsogon, the 31st IB conducted combat operations in the villages of Marinas and Cabiguhan in Gubat and barangays Manhumlad and Balocawe in Matnog.

On the other hand, all NPA fighting units, the people's militia and self-defense units nationwide strictly abided by the six-day ceasefire ordered by the CPP Central Committee. **AB**

Local ComVal leader slain

The Aquino regime's military began the year with blood in its hands with the killing of a mass leader in Compostela Valley. The landlord Aquino regime likewise brutally ended 2013 by ordering the arrest of eight farm workers of Hacienda Luisita Inc. (HLI) and depriving political prisoners of the right to be visited by human rights advocates on Christmas eve.

Compostela Valley. Forty-one year old Marcelo Monterona was shot to death in front of his house in Barangay Elizalde, Maco on January 3. Monterona was a leader of Indug Katawhan, a local organization of typhoon Pablo victims. He was also a member of the Mansaka tribal council. Monterona's killing was perpetrated only a month after Pedro Tinga, another Mansaka leader was gunned down in Barangay Malamodao, also in Maco town. The two victims were active in the antimining movement.

Tarlac. PNP elements arrested eight farm workers when the latter tried to block the Tarlac Development Corp., (TADECO) which manages HLI, from bulldozing their rice field and vegetable plots in Barangay Balete in Hacienda Luisita, Tarlac City on December 22.

The victims are Vicente Sambo (who was also beaten up); Rod Acosta and his mother Eufemia; Ronald Sakay; couple

Jose at Elsa Baldiviano; and Mamerto and Manuel Mandigma. The two women were later released, but the six other farm workers remain detained at Camp Makabulos, the headquarters of the Tarlac City PNP.

In a related development, the PNP likewise filed criminal charges such as trespassing, malicious mischief and slight physical injuries against Tarlac City Councilor Emy Ladera-Facunla for trying to help the farm workers.

The 3rd Mechanized Battalion of the Philippine Army had earlier built a camp to enable the police and the armed guards of TADECO to enter the areas planted to rice and vegetables by the farm workers in their bid to assert their right to the land seized from them by TADECO. As early as December 12, the company had already begun bulldozing the collective farms in Balete, one of the areas encompassed by the Notice of Cov-

erage of the Department of Agrarian Reform for land distribution.

Thus, the farmers built a makeshift hut that would serve as a "protest camp" to watch over their plots. But policemen and TADECO armed guards demolished it on December 21.

Quezon City. The police blocked members of various human rights advocacy groups from visiting four political detainees at the PNP Custodial Center in Camp Crame on December 22. Among those prevented from entering were KARAPATAN chair Marie Hilao Enriquez; KARAPATAN secretary-general Cristina Palabay; and Defend Jobs Philippine project officer Ivy Joy Valencia. They had planned on visiting NDFP peace consultants Eduardo Sarmiento, Eduardo Serrano and Reynante Gamara; and 53-year old Ramon Argente, a peasant organizer who had just undergone open heart surgery.

The visit to Camp Crame was part of the annual Solidarity Paskuhan for political prisoners. Enriquez's name was stricken off the list of authorized visitors even if she was appointed an independent observer to the GPH-NDFP peace negotiations. **AB**