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Editorial

Unleash a surge of protest to call the US-Aquino regime to account

More than two months after supertyphoon Yolanda's rising seas and howling winds laid waste to the lives and livelihoods of millions of people across vast areas of the Visayas, it is now the people's turn to surge in anger and protest against the Aquino regime's criminal negligence and extreme incompetence.

On January 25, the collective footsteps of up to 12,000 victims of typhoon Yolanda thundered through Tacloban's main thoroughfare. Like single waves gathering to create a powerful ocean tide, the people's mass movement vigorously bared the people's real conditions and cried for an end to the ruling regime that persists in stifling the reality of widespread devastation, poverty and hunger.

The swell of protest in Eastern Visayas in January provided but a glimpse of the even more powerful surge of action by the Filipino people against the ruling US-Aquino regime. From Tacloban and other Visayan cities, the protests of victims of typhoon Yolanda and others who have suffered

from the Aquino regime's neglect must surge towards the national urban centers.

The unity of the people of Eastern Visayas must likewise be further expanded to include the solidarity of all victims of typhoon Yolanda throughout the Visayas, and other calamities of recent years such as typhoons Pablo, Sendong and Santi, the Bohol earthquake and floods caused by the strong monsoon rains.

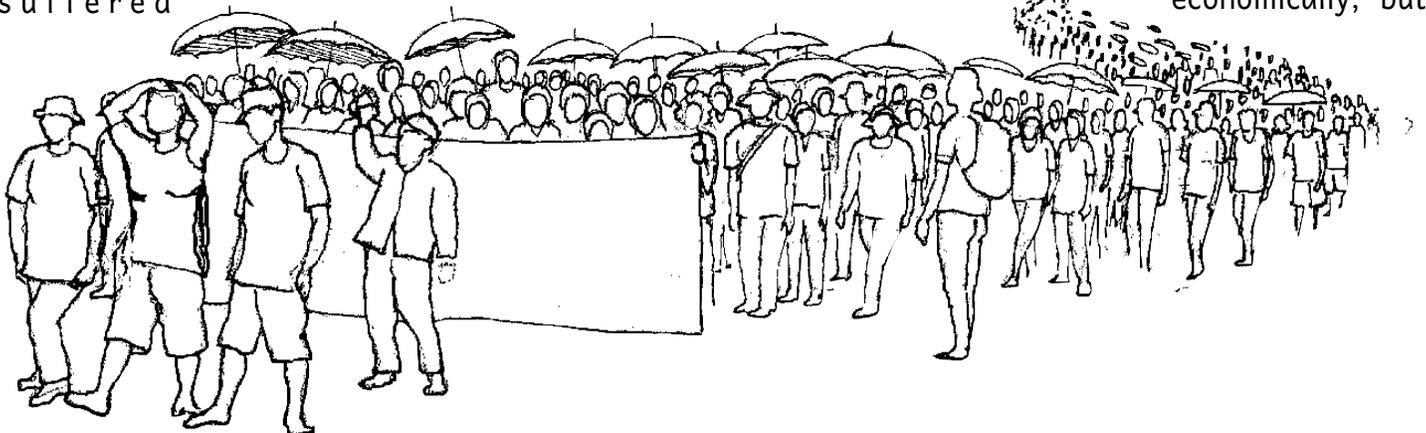
The vast majority of calamity victims come from the toiling masses, with their devastation stemming from the ruling regime's refusal to use the state's resources to ensure their safety and provide adequate systems and facilities to save people's lives and properties. Even in the

face of such widespread devastation, the ruling regime has confined itself to providing limited relief.

Calamity victims are victimized twice over by thieves in the bureaucracy who pocket disaster and emergency relief funds and even aid provided by international agencies.

They are likewise victimized by the lack of rehabilitation programs tailor-made for victims of disaster. The reactionary regime belittles the damage that has befallen the masses' livelihoods and the threat of widespread hunger. It has not undertaken emergency measures such as cancelling or assuming debts owed by farmers from banks or loan sharks or provided investment funds to enable farmers to plant and make the land productive.

Worse, the Aquino regime has even been invoking the need for rehabilitation to pour funds, not to uplift the victims economically, but



to benefit the businesses of its big comprador bourgeois allies.

The calamity victims' cry for justice must merge with the cries of the entire Filipino people for genuine land reform, a just increase in wages and lower prices for oil, electricity, water, food, medicine and other commodities. Even as they assail the severely inadequate budgets for disaster preparedness and mitigation, they strengthen their cries against the relentless budgetary cuts for education, health and other social services.

The entire people must unite to hold Benigno Aquino III accountable for his crimes not only in terms of his gross neglect of the calamity victims, but for paving the way for a handful of landlords, big local and foreign capitalists to exploit the people and cause them to suffer.

The surge of protest in Eastern Visayas must signal the start of giant storms of people's protests that will put an end to this baleful regime.

People's surge

"**R**ehimeng Aquino, kontra-kablas! (Aquino regime is anti-poor) This cry resounded from among more than 12,000 residents of Leyte, Samar and Biliran on January 24 and 25 when they launched a protest march in Tacloban City's main avenue to hold the Aquino government accountable for its criminal negligence when super typhoon Yolanda struck.

The rally was led by Duluk han Katawhan (People Surge), an alliance formed to mobilize Samar, Leyte and Biliran residents to rise and fight for justice and the right to decent livelihood.

The protesters demanded that the regime provide an emergency fund of ₱40,000 to each family. They assailed the Aquino regime for putting a stop to relief operations, saying that many victims, especially in the interior villages had yet to receive any relief assistance. They belied Malacañang's claims that the victims had already resumed their normal lives.

In the afternoon of January 24, thousands gathered at the Eastern Visayas State University (EVSU), where delegations crowded all three floors. At around 6 p.m., People Surge began a vigil-memorial for the victims and survi-

vors of typhoon Yolanda. Outside, military agents and policemen in patrol cars surveilled the building.

Because the huge rally was a reflection of the people's intense anger at the Aquino regime for its neglect of the victims of the super typhoon, the people did all they could to be able to join the demonstration. Before the rally, not a few farmers sold gingerroot and other cash crops to raise transport fare to Tacloban. In other barrios, villagers contributed cash for use as pocket money by those intending to join the rally. Village councils and local politicians who were convinced of the justness of the Yolanda victims' objectives likewise provided assistance.

In a desperate attempt to stifle the people's mass action, the military spread rumors that the rally would be "infiltrated" by NPA Red fighters. The rumors also served as pretext to deploy hordes of military troops in Tacloban. On the eve of the rally, malicious rumors were also spread about an alleged NPA attack on a bus. Despite such intimidation, the people forged ahead to join the rally. Residents of Basey, Samar who could not get past the military and police checkpoints at the San Juanico Bridge which connects Samar to Leyte island rode pump boats instead just so they could join the mass action.

When they reached Tacloban, the victims marched along Imelda Avenue up to the Legislative Building amid reverberating cries of "Aquino is anti-poor!", "Justice for the victims!", and "No-Build Zone Policy is anti-poor!" **AB**



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Contents

Editorial: Unleash a surge of protest	1
People's surge	2
The anti-people "no-build zone policy"	3
Yolanda victims gather in guerrilla zone	3
Building organs of political power	3
NPA attacks energy plant	4
NPA punishes mining firm in Cagayan	5
NPA attacks Sumifru	5
People's militia training in Cagayan Valley	6
PNP victimizes civilians in Sorsogon	6
Mining dons sanctimonious garb	7
AFP turns school into barracks	8
CAB and the Moro struggle	9
Oust the landlord president	10
San Roque in QC demolished anew	10

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Building organs of political power

The consolidation of the mass base has been a thoroughgoing endeavor alongside the advance of armed struggle in Southern Mindanao Region (SMR). Since 2013, barrio revolutionary committees have been established in quick succession in the various guerrilla bases being developed in the region.

Before the year ended, a number of municipal revolutionary committees (MRC) had also been formed. The lessons on how to fully comply with the requisites for building organs of political power (OPP) are important in order to attain the re-

gion's higher targets for OPP building in 2014 and must likewise be shared with other territories.

Sharp application of the mass line

Last year, the entire Party

and New People's Army in the region agreed that the task of building and consolidating the mass base must be stepped up to advance the three components of people's war (armed struggle, agrarian revolution and base building) in a balanced way. To achieve this, the mass organizations in the developing guerrilla bases must be invigorated to the point where they are able to function on their own. It was a way to bring out the leadership capabilities of mass leaders who would be leading the soon to be established BRC and MRC. The comrades identified the key issue that would mobilize the mass organizations and

Junk the anti-poor "no-build zone policy"

Urban poor residents victimized by typhoon Yolanda have demanded that the Aquino government junk its "no-build zone policy" which prohibits people from building houses near coastal areas. The victims said the policy would benefit only the big comprador bourgeoisie and businessmen.

In Tacloban City, the policy will cover an area of more than 400 hectares, including areas 40 meters from the coast during high tide, which are populated by thousands of families.

According to residents of the city's Barangay 37 Reclamation Area, the "no-build zone policy" is an anti-people rehabilitation program that will only worsen the poverty of typhoon survivors. It is sure to result in the massive dislocation of families who depend on fishing for a living. They have no other source of livelihood except fishing and selling their catch in the market or areas near the pier. To oppose this anti-people policy, affected residents are currently building shelters made from wooden debris from the storm. The government

wants to move them to overpriced bunkhouses that are too cramped for a family of five to ten members.

The Philippine Economic Zone Authority plans to build a manufacturing area in storm-affected sections of Leyte. The plan was already the subject of House Bill 3640 or the Tacloban City Special Economic Zone Act of 2013. The bill proposes the building of an industrial, commercial, trading, agro-industrial, tourist, banking, financial and investment center.

More than 10,000 families in Tacloban City barangays along the coastal areas will be affected by the bill, whose calls are tantamount to massive landgrabbing and the total demolition and eviction of thousands of people.

Yolanda victims gather in guerrilla zone

More than 200 villagers and two New People's Army platoons assembled in a remote sub-village in Samar on the night of February 1.

Their assembly's theme was "Victims of Yolanda, rise up and fight! Call to account the US-Aquino regime!" Officers of local mass organizations and representatives of the Party and NPA gave speeches during the gathering. The NPA unit and local youth organization presented songs and dances.

The speakers condemned the reactionary Aquino regime and called for its overthrow. They said that while they survived super-typhoon Yolanda, they are slowly being killed by the looming hunger caused by Aquino's policies. **AB**

address the key interests and problems of the peasant and Lumad masses. In accordance with the spirit of the mass line, the people's army focused on production. And when typhoon Pablo struck on December 4, 2012, the comrades made emergency relief and eventually, rehabilitation, their priority.

The NPA immediately solicited and distributed food and provided health services. Red fighters helped in repairing houses and schools. At that time, the revolutionary movement led by the Communist Party was the only entity that acted as a government catering to the masses' needs.

In the process, the comrades further realized the importance and urgency of consolidating the mass base through building OPP. Without consolidation, a single blow from a devastating calamity could completely destroy the mass base. For without a strong organization uniting them and a revolutionary government providing emergency services, the people would simply decide on

their own to leave the area. From this, the comrades identified the key link that would sustainably invigorate the mass organizations.

The components of the rehabilitation campaign include mass movements for production, environmental protection and other items that cater to the masses' welfare such as housing, education, health and sanitation. These mass movements are likewise comprehensively anchored on advancing the people's war. Communal farms maintained by the revolutionary mass organizations of peasants, women, youth and the people's militia flourished. *Lusong* or mutual exchange of labor in individual farms picked up. Backyard vegetable patches were encouraged. Animal husbandry was begun.

The mass organizations became busy, holding meetings for planning, assessments and studies on their own. They are now looking forward to implementing even bigger economic plans.

In the process, the need to establish a revolutionary gov-

ernment became concrete to the Lumad and peasant masses because through their experience, they knew that that no one but the people's democratic government guided them in advancing economic work, provided free education to their children, fought for their ancestral lands and protected the environment.

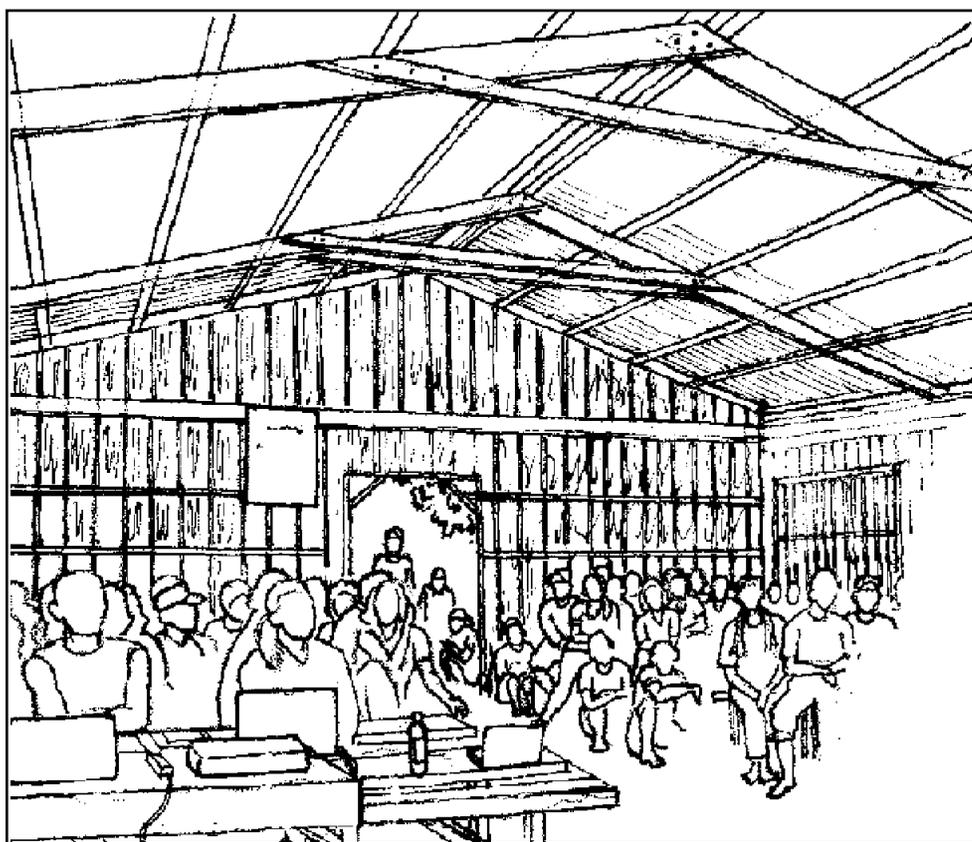
Simultaneously, they continue to hold the Aquino regime to its promises and assail it and its foreign capitalist and big comprador bourgeois cohorts for their negligence and incompetence.

Daringness, creativity and decisiveness

When the OPP were first being established, some comrades in the subregions were not too sure how to go about doing so. But this did not stop them. They harked back to the lessons learned from the time when NDF committees acted as BRCs in the 1980s. For guidance, they also reviewed the OPP orientation, how the first MRC was established and the resolutions on mass work. Aside from these studies, they dared to learn from actual practice and try methods, achieve breakthroughs and glean lessons from both positive and negative experiences.

Decisiveness and daringness are important because conservatism and allowing oneself to be overwhelmed by obstacles are big stumbling blocks. The never-ending process of fulfilling requisites, the lack of experienced cadres and militarization, among others are usually invoked as excuses.

In SMR, aside from grasping the key to mobilization, the problem regarding machinery was decisively resolved. Cadres were steeled in actual practice through breakthrough projects.



To ensure that the entire process is monitored, the leaders of each subregion led and actually joined in the plans' implementation.

Through actual practice, new ideas and practices emerged. One of these is to assign the region's vertical formations (such as the NPA fighting units) as the main machinery for building guerilla bases. In one subregion, a production platoon served as the arm of the production campaign in the guerrilla base. Another entity that proved to be a big help especially in propagating basic mass courses was a youth group trained to be a PADEPA and cultural arm. Their assistance made it possible to fully implement the mass education program.

Not one of the guerrilla fronts with MRCs was free from enemy operations. Comrades addressed this situation by adopting an offensive stance and by struggling against the civilianization of the people's army. Military actions are quickly put in gear because there is a clear defense plan.

On various levels and for various issues, there are legal conduits for the masses' activities, even as the Party branch and revolutionary mass organizations serve as their solid core. Gaining expertise in combining legal and open with illegal and underground operations provides enough leeway to mass organizations and even to the BRC/MRC to fulfill their tasks. This can be done effectively because the legitimacy and justness of their activities and the issues they have been fighting for are clear to the masses. **AB**

NPA punishes Cagayan mining firm

The New People's Army Henry Abraham Command meted punishment on January 13 on San You Philippines Mining Trade Ltd. in Barangay Catayuan, Lal-lo, Cagayan. The Red fighters destroyed company machinery during the punitive action.

Among the items burned and eventually destroyed were three big ships that were being used to extract magnetite sand from the sea and the Cagayan River; a backhoe; a loader; two dump-trucks; a bulldozer; and the mining company's conveyors and separators. The NPA likewise confiscated a BSL firearm from a guard as well as office equipment.

Cagayanos have long been demanding a stop to the plunderous activities of San You, Lian Xing Philippines Stone Carving Corp., Philippine Mining Group Holdings, Inc., Shaitan Cagayan Sand and Gravel Corp., and Yin Yii. These companies have been simultaneously extracting mineral resources from more than 13,000 hectares of shoreline in the towns of Lal-lo, Camalaniugan, Aparri and Bugey all the way to Sta. Ana.

These companies' long and filthy list of crimes has been etched in the people's collective memory. First, they have been slowly killing entire peasant and

fisherfolk communities because of the destruction wrought by the mining activities on the uplands, farms and fishing grounds from which the masses derive their livelihoods.

Second, they have unbridledly stolen the province's mineral wealth to the detriment of the environment. Third, they have raked in gigantic profits from their plunder but have been paying their workers measly wages.

Since 2007, these conniving foreign corporations have squeezed billions of dollars from their operations in Cagayan. They have a big ship that receives tons upon tons of magnetite sand from five smaller ships and earn up to ₱70 million from every dumptruck of refined magnetite. Tons of ore are shipped directly to Taiwan, China and other countries for foreign profit, leaving in their wake pitted grounds and ruined rivers and riverbanks. It is clear that this plunder of the province's natural resources has not bene-

NPA attacks energy company

A New People's Army unit attacked one of the plants of the Philippine Hybrid Energy Systems Inc (PHESI) in Tabinay Liit, Puerto Galera, Oriental Mindoro on January 23. The Red fighters burned a backhoe owned by the company. The attack served as a warning to the company to give consideration to environmental issues and respect the rights of the area's residents.

Two days after this armed action, Red fighters clashed with a unit of the PNP Regional Public Safety Battalion in Barangay Talipanan, Puerto Galera. Two police elements were killed and nine wounded in this encounter. **AB**

fited the people at all.

The masses have long been fighting these mining companies in various ways. They have filed petitions, held dialogues, launched picket-marches and built barricades. This struggle, which began as far back as 2007, has erupted and spread to all parts of the affected towns. The people have even raised their grievances before Malacañang.

The US-Aquino regime and local politicians who have also profited from foreign mining such as the Enrile dynasty, Cagayan Gov. Alvaro Antonio, Vice Gov. Odi Fausto, 1st District Rep. Sally Enrile, Lal-lo Mayor Florante Pascual, Aparri Mayor Shalimar Tumaru, Buguey Mayor Licerio Antiporda and Gonzaga Mayor Carlitos Pentecostes have all been turning a blind eye to the destruction caused by these mines. Despite the people's intense opposition, they have granted these foreign vultures 25-year mining permits. **AB**

People's militia training in Cagayan Valley

The people's militia in a guerrilla front in Cagayan Valley recently underwent military training alongside newly recruited fulltime fighters of the New People's Army. The training formed part of a programmed series of trainings of every people's militia platoon established in every barrio.

The training lasted seven days and consisted of maneuvers, individual combat techniques (ICT), target shooting and marksmanship and military drills. The political component of the training had already been previously given, such as NPA History and Regulations, NPA Military Regulations and Intelligence and Counter-intelligence Work.

The members of the people's militia attended the training even if it was the height of the planting season. Even if they were all poor peasants, with some dependent on being farm workers, they sacrificed their work in order to join the training. Some would go home every afternoon to fulfill household responsibilities and come back early the next morning for the training. Others tethered their carabaos before hurrying towards the training ground. Though late, they would still join the ranks.

The militia's determination to continue was underscored during an enemy operation. The members joined in

conducting reconnaissance and standing watch at night.

The militia and their trainor summed-up the training together. From the first day to the end, attendance among the militia was complete. Aside from discovering potential military commanders from among the militia and the new recruits, each trainee was able to try his or her ability to unite and cooperate with others during a military situation.

When asked what he thought of the training, Ka Rim, the political guide of a militia squad said, "We still need to be more conscious of the time and of following orders. We are thankful for learning ICT."

On the part of the new recruits, they enjoyed learning alongside the militia. According to Ka Jho, it was hard but enjoyable. "There were times when we found things difficult, but we explained ourselves. We were patient with each others' weaknesses because we maintained our military bearing and bore in mind the political objectives of our training."

Ka Rey, the lead trainor was very happy even if being an instructor was not an easy job. He said he was glad that no one gave up on the difficult training and everyone graduated.

The graduates and their families were all smiles. They ended the activity with cultural presentations. As for the training ground, it was planted to vegetables so it could serve as the area's first communal farm. **AB**

NPA attacks Sumifru

RED fighters under the Mt. Kitanglad Subregional Command attacked the Sumitomo Fruits (Sumifru) plant in Barangay Barobo, Valencia City, Bukidnon on the night of January 18, seizing two firearms.

Sumifru is estimated to have sustained ₱11 million in damage due to the attack. The NPA targeted the company due to its anti-worker and environmentally destructive operations. Its 5,000-hectare banana plantation was seized from peasants and Lumad in two municipalities of Bukidnon. Many of those who lost their land were hired as workers by the company.

In 2010, the packing plant workers struck due to low wages and unjust working conditions. They were all contractuales and deprived of their right to unionize, receive benefits and enjoy security of tenure. **AB**

Mining in Masbate dons sanctimonious garb

The Filminera Resources Corporation (FRC), the Philippine Army 9th ID and the PNP-Masbate cabal has been trying to shroud with sanctimonious garb its scheme of expanding the plunder of the island-province's mineral wealth.

Chaplains under the 9th ID plan to hold masses in Masbate's various barangays. The masses, however, will be conducted in combination with military and police attacks on the villagers, with the ultimate goal of paving the way for FRC's further theft of Masbate's mineral resources, which should rightfully benefit the people. The masses will first be held in the third district (comprising the towns of Cataingan, Cawayan, Dimasalang, Esperanza, Palanas, Pio V. Corpuz, Placer and Uson) and eventually in other parts of the island.

Through these masses, the soldiers and police will be portrayed as good and God-fearing, and FRC's monstrous destruction of more than 8,000 hectares of land in Aroroy town covered up. FRC has been mining gold in this town since 2009, despite the people's fierce opposition. Various sectors have raised numerous complaints against Filminera, from the small miners being displaced, to peasants and fishpond owners whose livelihoods have been ruined due to the mine tailing runoffs in their rice fields and fisheries.

Filminera is under the Masbate Gold Project, which is currently the biggest nationwide. From June 2009 to June 2010, FRC raked in \$38.4 million from the tons of gold it has mined in Aroroy, to the people's detriment.

Thus, behind the mask of holiness is massive landgrabbing

and the destruction of the livelihoods of the poor and other sectors.

This is the face of Oplan Bayanihan in Masbate, where the chaplains serve as agents of deception and the Division Reconnaissance Companies and PNP strike forces launch armed attacks.

Meanwhile, intelligence operations are relentlessly being conducted against the people's revolutionary movement. Other government agencies will be used as well, such as the Department of Education and local government units to extract information from the struggling people and spread lies. The goal is to thwart the advance of the people's revolution and pave the way for exploitation by big capitalists.

In the face of such dangers to the people's lives and liveli-

hoods, the Jose Rapsing Command of the New People's Army called on Masbateños to resist FRC's looming onslaught in connivance with the AFP and PNP. It appealed to the people not to allow the seizure and destruction anew of lands, the expropriation of mineral resources, the pollution of the island's waters and the death of Masbate's marine life, the suppression of the Masbateños' right to life and livelihood, and the killings of family and friends. The people must likewise resist bribery and false promises of development.

The Jose Rapsing Command also called on officials of the provincial government, from the governor to the barangay chairmen to side with the people and prevent FRC from further marauding the island. It also encouraged churchpeople and good elements in the mass media to repudiate the AFP-PNP's jesuitical use of the mass to advance Filminera's exploitative interests.

Said the NPA-Masbate, the conduct of masses will never be able to obscure the sinister schemes of FRC and its AFP-PNP defenders. **AB**

Civilians victimized in Sorsogon

A civilian was killed and another one arrested by policemen after elements of the PNP-Sorsogon clashed with a number of New People's Army (NPA) operatives at a police checkpoint in Cabid-an, Sorsogon City on the night of January 30. Henry Orbena, a worker at a coconut water plant near the scene of the fighting was killed in the policemen's indiscriminate firing. He was felled by bullets from an M16 rifle. His cousin Brian Gallega, also a worker at the plant, was arbitrarily picked up. Both civilians were accused of being NPA members.

The Celso Minguez Command (CMC) of NPA-Sorsogon belied this and the PNP's claims that the NPA had seized two M16 rifles from them.

The CMC charged that the PNP-Sorsogon should own up to its responsibility for Orbena's death and release Gallega from jail. **AB**

AFP turns school into barracks

The Communist Party of the Philippines and the New People's Army roundly condemned the 25th IB's brazen use of a school as an encampment. The school, located at Side 4, Barangay Mangayon, Compostela, Compostela Valley is being used by the Magtalog, a Lumad tribe.

The soldiers' use of the schoolbuilding as their barracks directly contravenes the rules of war which guarantee the safety of civilians amid war and prohibit the use of civilian structures for military purposes. It is also a violation of the right of children to education because administrators are forced to suspend classes due to the ensuing disturbance and the dangers posed by the soldiers to the students.

The military has long been repressing the community because its residents have been known for their struggle against the US-Aquino regime regarding the latter's incompetence in providing assistance when typhoon Pablo struck in November 2012. In October 2013, residents evacuated after soldiers refused to pull out from their community. Among the evacuees were three youth who were beaten up by soldiers after they were accused of hauling rice for the Red fighters. The residents are also known for having risen independently from the tragedy wrought by the typhoon. Among their efforts to improve their community was to build their own school under the Salugpungan Ta Tanulgan

kanugon Community Learning Center with the assistance of the Rural Missionaries of the Philippines. It currently has 230 students from Grades 1 to 5 and five fulltime teachers.

The soldiers were forced to pull out from the school on January 28 after the residents, human and child rights advocates confronted them. Nonetheless, they merely transferred their camp to the outskirts of the community, where they continue to sow fear among the children and residents of Side 4.

In reality, the soldiers are paving the way for the entry of Agusan Petroleum Corporation, a mining company owned by Eduardo Cojuangco.

To give militarization a legitimate face, the AFP has connived with the Department of Education (DepEd) through a memorandum of agreement dated December 13, 2013, allowing AFP soldiers to enter schools, run

roughshod on the children's rights and put them in danger in the name of "civil-military operations." The DepEd has allowed the military to enter schools, particularly elementary and high schools in the countryside where the revolutionary movement is active, purportedly to launch forums, discussions and medical missions. Memorandum No. 221, series of 2013 is ironically entitled Guidelines on Protection of Children during Armed Conflict. Based on an AFP directive on the conduct of "civil-military operations" in civilian institutions like schools and hospitals, it is framed within Oplan Bayanihan and targets communities and organizations legitimately fighting the reactionary state.

Aside from a series of incidents involving repression against children and schools in Compostela Valley, KARAPATAN has likewise documented other AFP abuses in schools in the name of "civil-military operations," among them

> the compulsory attendance starting July 1 last year of Grade 6 and high school students in all public schools in Cagayan province in anti-communist forums organized by the 5th Civil Military Operations Battalion, 5th Infantry Division

> the use by the 81st IB on July 28, 2013 of the barangay hall of Nagtenga, Sta. Cruz, Ilocos Sur, which also houses the day care center,

> the 8th IB's encampment at the Sampagueta Elementary School in Barangay Sampagueta, Kibawe, Bukidnon on March 21, 2012. **AB**



CAB will not suppress the Moro struggle

"All stakeholders in the Moro struggle should not lose sight of the fundamental causes of the problems that saddle the Moro people. This is crucial because, no matter what agreement is forged, if the feudal and semifeudal bondage imposed upon the Moro people by the local ruling classes and their imperialist masters remains, no significant change will be forthcoming."

Thus said Jorge "Ka Oris" Madlos, National Democratic Front of the Philippines-Mindanao spokesperson, after the Government of the Philippines (GPH) and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) signed the Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro (CAB) on January 25. He added that only through revolutionary struggle can the fundamental problems of the Moro people be addressed, genuine autonomy achieved and chauvinism against them resolved.

The agreement cannot change continuing landlessness among the majority of the Moro people. Multinational plantations and destructive mining companies are aggressively and relentlessly expanding. The Moro's ancestral land and waters, including the Liguasan Marsh and the vast plains are persistent targets of plunder by the big comprador bourgeoisie and multinational corporations. The local ruling classes continue to threaten the Moro people as second class Filipinos, peddling the utterly chauvinist line of their imperialist master that Moros are "terrorists" and their communities "terrorist havens," thus giving the fascist AFP the license to brutally attack genuine Moro resistance movements as they did the MNLF in Zamboanga City in November 2013, added Ka Oris.

Clearly, the CAB does not

address these more basic issues because its only objective is to deceive and cause the surrender and pacification of the MILF. The economic sharing agreement will benefit only a few traditional leaders, upper class Moros and their imperialist bosses. In essence and in form, it is no different from the agreement previously signed by the Moro National Liberation Front and the Ramos regime in 1998.

The reactionary government may have succeeded in effecting the MILF's surrender, but this early, it is clear that it has failed to subjugate the entire organization. Major sections of the MILF in the field are now openly supporting the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF), which broke away from the MILF due to disagreements over the course of the peace negotiations. In a desperate attempt to silence the BIFF, the AFP launched "Operation Darkhorse" on January 27 and conducted aerial bombings in the towns of Sharif Saydona, Rajah Buayan and Datu Piang in Maguindanao, and Pikit, North Cotabato. Up to 9,465 fami-

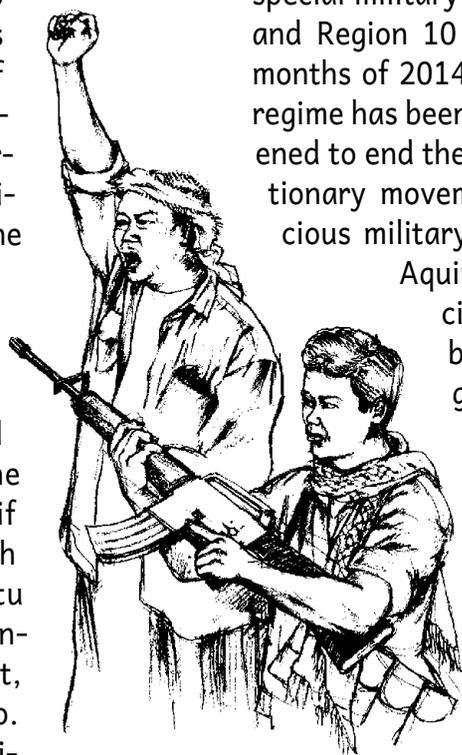
lies or 35,334 individuals were affected and forced to evacuate.

In September, the AFP attacked five barangays in Mid-sayap, North Cotabato to subdue BIFF forces in the area. The BIFF was formed in 2008 after Ameril Umbra Kato, commander of the MILF 105th Base Command assigned to Maguindanao refused to join the MILF structure during ongoing talks with the GPH.

The Moro resistance movement must clearly adhere to the more basic demands of the Moro peasants for the defense of their ancestral lands and must closely coordinate its struggle with the struggle of the entire Filipino people. It must understand the true reactionary nature of US puppet regimes so that it can avoid being ensnared in its traps, as what happened to the MNLF before and to the MILF more recently.

Meanwhile, militarization is set to intensify nationwide, especially in Mindanao, now that the MILF's armed struggle has decisively been put to a stop. The Aquino regime recently announced the deployment of an additional seven battalions of special military forces in Caraga and Region 10 in the first two months of 2014. The US-Aquino regime has been further emboldened to end the people's revolutionary movement through vicious military campaigns. But

Aquino and his fascist forces will fail because his regime is in the process of being completely isolated from the people and the revolutionary movement continues to gain strength. **AB**



Central Luzon peasants' cry

Oust the landlord president

On January 22, peasants from Guimba, Nueva Ecija and Porac, Pampanga launched a caravan to mark the 27th anniversary of the Mendiola Massacre. They called for the immediate ouster of Benigno Aquino III, the foremost advocate of landlord interest and enforcer of anti-peasant and anti-people policies.

The mass action was led by the Alyansa ng Magbubukid sa Gitnang Luzon and allied organizations based in Hacienda Luisita, Pampanga, Nueva Ecija, Tarlac, Pangasinan, Aurora, Bulacan, Bataan and Zambales. Among the issues they raised were

- > landgrabbing by Ayala Land and its front organizations of the 2,000-hectare Hacienda Dolores in Porac, Pampanga

- > the looming cancellation of certificates of land ownership, certificates of land transfer and emancipation patents in Nueva Ecija and the reconcentration of land in the hands of big landlords like the Angaras, Kilantangs, Ruedas, De Santoses, Tinios, Ilagans, Gonzaleses and Domingos, among others.

- > the eviction of farmers and national minorities from Casiguran, Aurora to give way to the Aurora Pacific Economic Zone and Freeport (Apeco) being pushed by the Angaras

- > landgrabbing by the Central Azucarera de Tarlac Realty Corp of a 400-hectare landholding in Bayambang, Pangasinan. The Azucarera is a business partner of a company owned by the Aquino-Cojuangco family

- > landgrabbing by the Villafuerte family of a 375-hectare piece of prime real estate in San

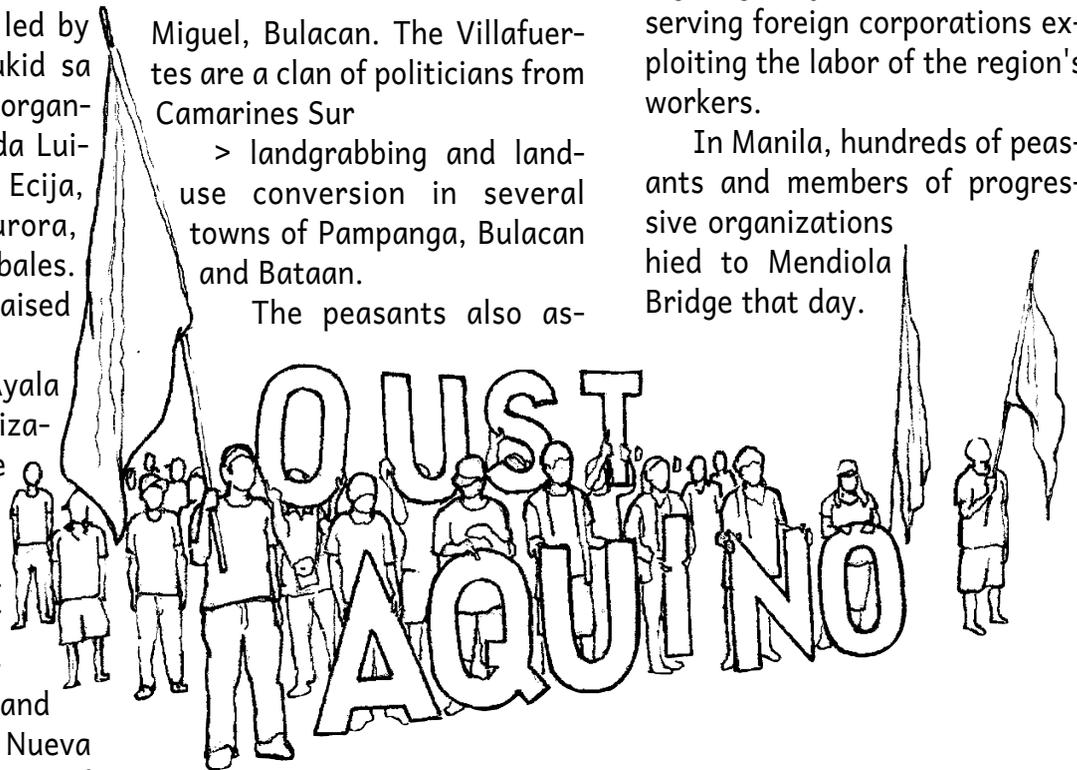
Miguel, Bulacan. The Villafuertes are a clan of politicians from Camarines Sur

- > landgrabbing and land-use conversion in several towns of Pampanga, Bulacan and Bataan.

The peasants also as-

sailed infrastructure projects in Central Luzon under the regime's Public-Private Partnership program. The projects have caused the displacement of farmers from their land and destroyed their livelihoods. Among them are economic zones and big highways that would be serving foreign corporations exploiting the labor of the region's workers.

In Manila, hundreds of peasants and members of progressive organizations hied to Mendiola Bridge that day.



San Roque, QC demolished anew

VARIOUS progressive organizations condemned the Aquino regime and the Quezon City local government for the violent ten-hour demolition at Agham Road, Sitio San Roque, Barangay Pagasa, Quezon City on January 27.

Using tear gas and truncheons, the demolition team forced its way into the community and brutally tore down the residents' houses. Several were wounded, including 11 children age five years and younger. Eleven residents were likewise arrested, including two minors. Two-hundred and fifty families were affected by the demolition and have nowhere to go. After two days, they rebuilt their shanties along the Agham Road central island.

The demolition was the third in a continuing campaign by the Quezon City local government to evict San Roque residents to pave the way for the QC-Central Business District. In accordance with an agreement signed by Ayala Land Corporation and the National Housing Authority, all urban poor communities inside a 37-hectare area within North Triangle, Barangay Pagasa will be demolished to build the P65-billion project. **AB**