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Editorial

Hold Aquino and his co-conspirators accountable

The Supreme Court yielded to the Filipino people's surging resistance to the Disbursement Acceleration Program (DAP) when it declared that using the DAP is violative of the Philippine constitution.

Although the decision was fraught with loopholes to enable Benigno Aquino III to evade criminal liability, it could not but underscore the fact that public funds have been used by the ruling regime according to whim and to further its political interests.

The decision will spur the people's struggle to completely abolish the pork barrel system and hold the Aquino regime to account for plunder and corruption.

The DAP is a system invented by the Aquino regime that accords Aquino the privilege of distributing billions of pesos in public funds at his own discretion.

The DAP system was begun under the leadership of Department of Budget and Management (DBM) Sec. Florencio "Butch" Abad in 2011. All DBM memorandum orders that led to the release of up to P177 billion in public funds were signed and approved by Aquino.

Various sectors are demanding a detailed accounting of how the DAP funds were spent. Aquino

no claims that they were used for "economic development projects." In fact, Aquino allotted the monies to his minions' projects to ensure their loyalty and support.

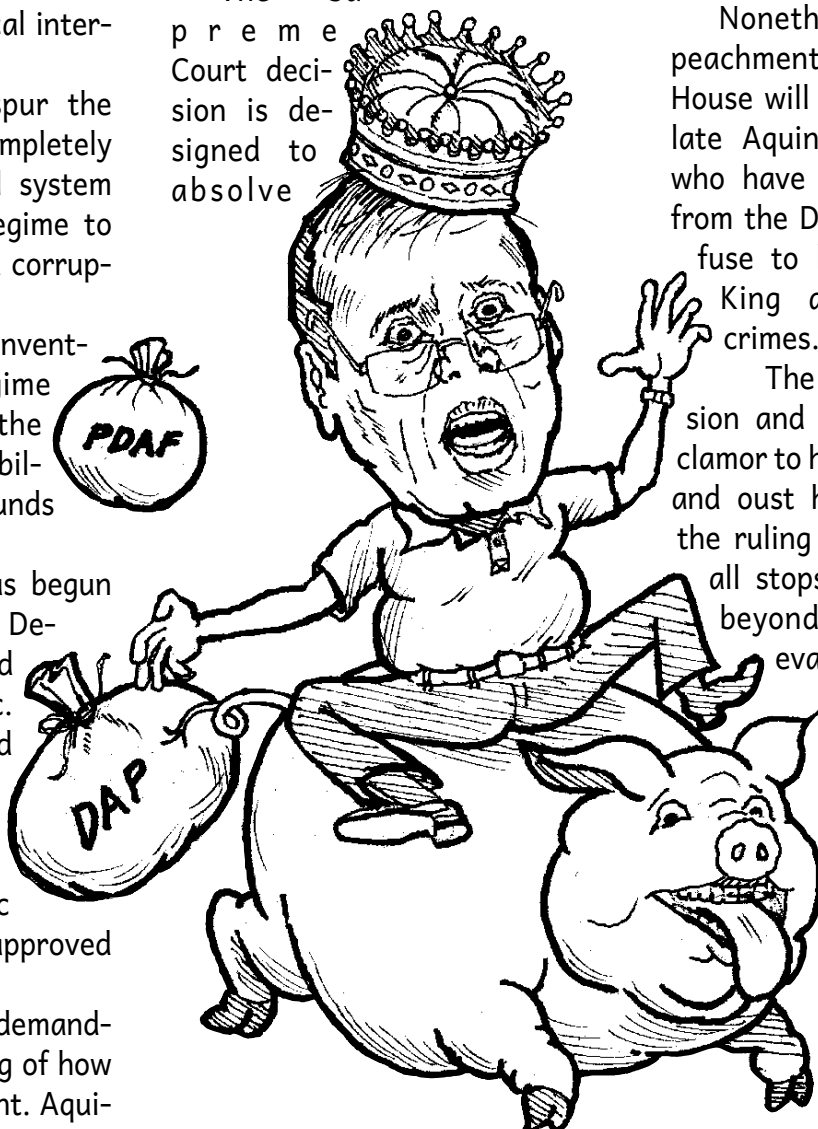
The Supreme Court decision is designed to absolve

Aquino since only specific portions of the DAP have been declared unconstitutional. Moreover, none of those involved in the fund malversations of the past under DAP will be held liable. This provides Aquino with the means of evading possible impeachment in the Lower House of Congress. Why, indeed, would he be impeached by the very beneficiaries of DAP and PDAF?

Nonetheless, filing an impeachment case in the Lower House will help identify and isolate Aquino allies in Congress who have long been benefiting from the DAP and PDAF and refuse to hold the Pork Barrel King accountable for his crimes.

The Supreme Court decision and the people's growing clamor to hold Aquino to account and oust him will further push the ruling Aquino clique to pull all stops to remain in power beyond 2016 in order to evade criminal prosecution. Thus, it is a must to go all-out in exposing, isolating and ousting the Aquino regime before the 2016 elections.

One effective means of molding public opinion in order to completely isolate the Aquino clique



is to hold widespread people's assemblies in communities, schools, factories, offices, churches and many other areas where the public could air its grievances against the Aquino regime and the latter's lies under the illusory "righteous road" and "good governance" slogans.

In these assemblies, the Filipino people can muster their anger not only against the Aquino regime's corruption, but against its accountability for widespread unemployment, low wages, rising prices of food and medicine, landlessness and mounting cases of landgrabbing.

The regime must likewise answer for its policies that have given rise to tuition fee hikes in public and private schools, criminal negligence of millions of calamity victims, the relentless export of migrant labor, intensifying military abuses and all-out war against the peasant masses. The Aquino regime must also be prosecuted for treason in having signed the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement (EDCA) and allowing all-out US military presence in the country. **AB**

DAP, PDAF, BUB: Pork barrel by any other name

Priority Development Assistance Fund (PDAF), Disbursement Acceleration Program (DAP) and now, "bottom-up budgeting" (BUB). Whatever new name the ruling Aquino regime uses for it, they are in essence, one and the same—they all involve the anomalous use by the ruling Aquino clique of huge public funds to favor political allies and ensure their loyalty.

When the Supreme Court decision declaring parts of the DAP unconstitutional was issued, Malacañang scrambled to explain that funds of up to ₱177 billion that were sourced from public coffers were all used for projects that benefited the Filipino people.

In reality, the DAP failed to resolve the striking problems of joblessness, low wages, landlessness, poverty and spiralling prices. In fact, they have even worsened under the Aquino regime.

The only ones who benefited from DAP were Aquino supporters, members and

allies of the Liberal Party, his friends and big business. Aquino used the DAP for big-ticket projects under the Public-Private Partnership Program and for his favored politicians who had their names emblazoned on the infrastructure projects they sponsored.

The amount of Aquino's fund diversions is actually more than 500 times bigger than that involved in the corruption case filed against Gloria Arroyo for using ₱366 million in monies from the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office for purposes other than those approved by Congress.

Aquino's DAP funded many questionable items, such as additional train coaches worth ₱4.5 billion, even if the DOTC did not program for any; the anomalous PAMANA (₱1.82 billion) which forms part of the counterinsurgency program; extra allocations for government corporations (₱6.9 billion); a "stimulus program" for the ARMM (₱8.5 billion); Agrarian Reform Communities under the DAR (₱1.29 billion); and surveys to be allegedly conducted by the DAR and DA (₱625 million).

Since the Supreme Court declared the PDAF illegal in 2013 and other petitions against the DAP were filed, Malacañang has shifted to a new way of distributing the "pork barrel"—the so-called "bottom-up budgeting." Under this scheme, not only sen-



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ators and congressmen have been granted the privilege to "identify" projects for funding, but even local government officials and "grassroots non-government organizations" (NGO).

There is absolutely no difference between the PDAF, the DAP and the BUB in terms of the elements involved: there are public funds diverted, there are government agencies facilitating the fund transfers and there are NGOs that serve as project implementors.

But the BUB is far worse than the PDAF and DAP because it enables patronage politics to penetrate the reactionary bureaucracy with unprecedented depth and breadth. The funds being disbursed under the BUB have also ballooned since 2013 from ₱8.4 billion to ₱20.03 billion.

As DILG secretary, Mar Roxas has emerged as the foremost distributor of "pork barrel" funds under the BUB nationwide. He is now brazenly using the BUB as a means to buy the loyalty and support of local officials in preparation for his 2016 presidential bid.

Meanwhile, the Makabayan bloc at the Lower House of Congress has announced plans to file an impeachment complaint against Aquino now that the DAP has been declared unconstitutional. The progressive representatives said that Aquino could not get off the hook by claiming that he used the DAP "in good faith." In fact, when he was senator, he opposed Gloria Arroyo's practice of controlling funds allotted to members of Congress.

The Makabayan bloc definitely faces an uphill battle in its bid to have Aquino impeached by Congress, since the Lower House is dominated by Aquino allies who have been receiving and benefiting from the DAP and Aquino's other discretionary funds. **AB**

More people dissatisfied with Aquino

MORE and more Filipinos are dissatisfied with Benigno Aquino III's administration, according to the latest surveys conducted by Ibon Foundation on April 24-30.

The survey revealed that up to 47% of the respondents were "dissatisfied" with Aquino's governance. This is 4 percentage points higher compared to the results of a similar survey conducted in October 2013.

On the other hand, the proportion of respondents who said they were content with the Aquino government fell by 3 percentage points to 36%.

The results contradict the boisterous claims of pro-Aquino propagandists and media that the ruling regime continues to enjoy the people's widespread support. According to Ibon, the results of its survey reflect the people's negative sentiments as nothing has changed under the Aquino government.

Meanwhile, growing numbers of Filipinos also believe that there has been no change in the country's corruption and poverty status in the last three years of Aquino's rule. Three out of five respondents, or 64.9% said that corruption persists and that the regime's "anti-corruption campaign" has not yielded positive results for the economy. Only 23.9% believe that corruption has been reduced. Eight out of ten respondents said that poverty has worsened. Seven out of ten Filipinos perceive their families as poor.

Ibon Foundation is an independent institution that conducts research on socio-economic issues affecting the people. **AB**

"Davao terror plot" is a US concoction

The US government engineered Benigno Aquino III's July 1 announcement of an imminent terrorist attack on Davao City. Clearly, the objective of such an announcement is to justify growing US military presence and intervention in Davao City under the "war against terror."

Aquino's announcement that a certain Abdul Basit Usman would be bombing installations in Davao City was met with criticism, as this was followed by the massive deployment of police and military forces outside city limits and restrictions on the people's movements. After a few days, Malacañang was forced to take back its "terror attack" claims,

saying the information was raw.

In a statement, National Democratic Front-Southern Mindanao Region spokesperson Comrade Rubi del Mundo said that Aquino's announcement served no other purpose than to justify the use of Davao City as a launching pad for the "war against terror" and the entry of American troops un-

der the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement (EDCA).

The EDCA is a new military agreement signed by the US and the Aquino regime allowing the US military to set up bases and facilities in the Philippines within AFP camps. It grants the US the right to build infrastructure, store weapons, receive an unlimited number of American soldiers and launch military operations, among others.

By concocting a scenario of "terrorist attacks" on Davao City, the US military and Aquino wanted to compel Mayor Rodrigo Duterte to allow the massive presence of US soldiers in the city. Mayor Duterte had several times expressed his opposition to the entry of American troops and the construction of military facilities and bases in his city under EDCA.

The US military had earlier announced the closure of the Joint Special Operations Task Force-Philippines (JSOTF-P) headquarters within Camp

Navarro in Zamboanga City. From 700 forces, the US military estimates that only 30 personnel would remain by the end of the year.

In fact, under EDCA, a considerably bigger number of US soldiers will be able to stay in the Philippines in various AFP camps nationwide.

Meanwhile, progressive groups led by BAYAN rallied on July 4 in front of the US Embassy in Manila to protest the EDCA. The protest was timed to coincide with the anniversary of bogus Philippine independence and formed part of the growing opposition to the EDCA since its signing in April.

Three separate petitions against the agreement are currently pending at the Supreme Court. The petitioners are demanding that the agreement be declared unconstitutional and that its implementation be stopped immediately. They said that the EDCA is grossly lopsided in favor of US interests and violates Philippine sovereignty and the laws and processes of the Philippine government. **AB**

"One Island, One Region"

Marañon's newest scheme in Negros

Negros Occidental Gov. Alfredo Marañon has cooked up a new scheme to seize and amass land for agribusiness projects and plantations for oil palm, rubber trees, pineapple, banana and coffee as well as pastureland for cattle and sheep. Colluding with him in this scheme is DILG Sec. Mar Roxas, who himself hails from a big landlord clan.

Marañon laid out his plan dubbed "One Island, One Region" during a meeting of 178 local officials and sectoral representatives from Negros Occidental and Negros Oriental held in Bacolod City on June 24. The plan by Marañon and various foreign investors calls for linking Canlaon City and Vallabhermoso (Negros Oriental) to Sagay City, San Carlos City and Salvador Benedicto in Negros Occidental. They are also eyeing the vast and adjacent towns and barangays of Hinobaan, Ilog and Kabankalan City in Negros Occidental and the municipalities of Basay, Bayawan and Mabinay in Negros Oriental for agribusiness.

Currently, the Copper Development Corp., Goring Mining and Exploration and Eagle Cement Corp. are already operating and plan on expanding along the Basay-Hinobaan boundary. Epithermal Gold Corp., Essence Mining Corp. and Philmet Explora-

tion Corp. also plan to conduct mining operations along the Binalbagan-Himamaylan City boundary in Negros Occidental and the Tayasan-Ayungon-Jimalud tri-boundary in Negros Oriental.

Roxas immediately agreed to the plan, saying all that was needed was an executive order from Malacañang for it to push through. Allowing "One Island, One Region" is Roxas' follow-through for Marañon after supporting the governor in the 2013 elections versus other ruling class elements in the island. In exchange for favoring Marañon, Roxas can expect the governor's all-out support for his presidential run in 2016.

On the other hand, Gov. Roel Degamu of Negros Oriental was hard-pressed giving his support, aware as he is that "One Island, One Region" is a scheme hatched by the big reactionary classes of Negros Occidental to profit from the resources of the cluster of backward towns and villages lying along the two provinces' boundary. The ruling classes of Negros Oriental will be at a disadvantage with such an arrangement.

Negros Occidental (population: 2,907,859) is part of Western Visayas. Lying southeast of it is Negros Oriental (population: 1,286,666) which is part of Central Visayas. **AB**

Demolitions in Batangas, Cavite and QC

A series of demolitions of urban poor communities was conducted by the Aquino government in the past few days. The latest took place on July 4, when 277 urban poor shanties were razed in Barangay Laiya Aplaya, San Juan, Batangas. Another violent demolition was also conducted on the homes of 77 families in Barangay Zapote III, Bacoor City on June 5. The day after, the houses of 70 families in K-9 St., West Kamias, Quezon City were torn down.

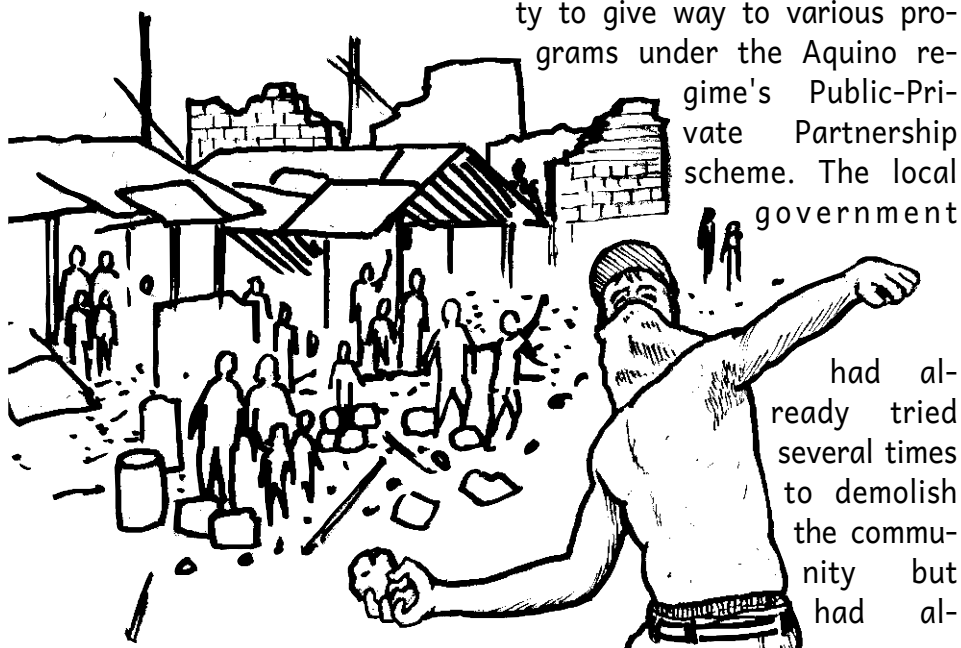
In Batangas, the Samahan ng Kabahayan at Mangingisda ng Balabacan Laiya put up a barricade to stop the demolition, but hundreds of members of a demolition team and armed policemen confronted them. There are plans by the Laiya Development Corp. and Macaria Development Corp. to build a beach resort on a 25-hectare coastal area in Sitio Balabacan. Both companies are owned by Federico Campos III, who is claiming the land.

The residents petitioned the court for a temporary restraining order (TRO) after Sheriff Romeo Macaraig and PNP-Batangas provincial director Sr. Supt. Jireh Omega Fidel delivered the demolition order issued by the municipal and regional trial courts in September 2013. The order calls for the eviction of 1,000 residents from the area.

In Cavite, men from David M. Consunji, Inc. (DMCI) along with 80 policemen and firefighters attacked the barricade set up by residents of Barangay Zapote III against the demolition. A resident was injured when the demolition team razed the houses. The local government did not even have a relocation site prepared and merely gave ₱5,000 to each family.

The residents have been living in the area for 20 years. They are being evicted from the seven-hectare lot to give way to the construction of a condominium by DMCI, which is owned by a big comprador.

In Quezon City, policemen and local government personnel likewise attacked a barricade erected by protesting residents of West Kamias. They are being driven away from their community to give way to various programs under the Aquino regime's Public-Private Partnership scheme. The local government



had already tried several times to demolish the community but had al-

ways been thwarted by the residents' organized resistance.

The residents are opposing their relocation to Rodriguez, Rizal and Payatas, Quezon City. Aside from being far from their sources of livelihood in markets like Nepa-Q Mart, the relocation site in Rodriguez was severely flooded in 2012. They have also rejected the "low-cost housing" being offered them in Payatas. Not only are many of them not on the list of "beneficiaries," the monthly amortization of ₱950 is also an added burden to them.

On top of these three demolition cases, many more residents of urban poor communities in Sta. Mercedes, Maragondon, Cavite are in danger of being evicted from their homes to give way to an eco-tourism project under the MTV Investment Properties Holding Corp. which is owned by the Viratas. They are not only being evicted from their community, but are also being made to pay ₱5,000 per month retroactive to January 2014 in an added bid to coerce them into leaving the area.

In related news, the Alyansa Kontra Demolisyon and KADAMAY demanded that the Commission on Audit investigate how the Informal Settler Fund (ISF) has been spent. In particular, they want a probe on the transactions between the Aquino government and construction companies building resettlement areas, such as New San Jose Builders which is owned by Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa's father-in-law.

The regime has been allotting ₱10 billion annually to the ISF since Benigno Aquino III announced in 2012 that his government plans to relocate 20,000 families living along Metro Manila's main estuaries. **AB**

Peasant groups launch anti-CARP *lakbayan*

Three thousand farmers and their supporters marched to Mendiola on June 30, marking the end of a week-long *lakbayan* (march-caravan) against plans to extend anew the bogus Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP).

They demanded an end to CARP on June 30, the day the program is supposed to be terminated. "For 26 years," said Rafael Mariano, who chairs the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP), "CARP failed to break the land monopoly and control of landlords. Aquino and his CARP cannot be expected to implement land distribution." Mariano called on Filipino farmers to launch a series of protest actions demanding free land distribution and intensified land cultivation campaigns in the countryside.

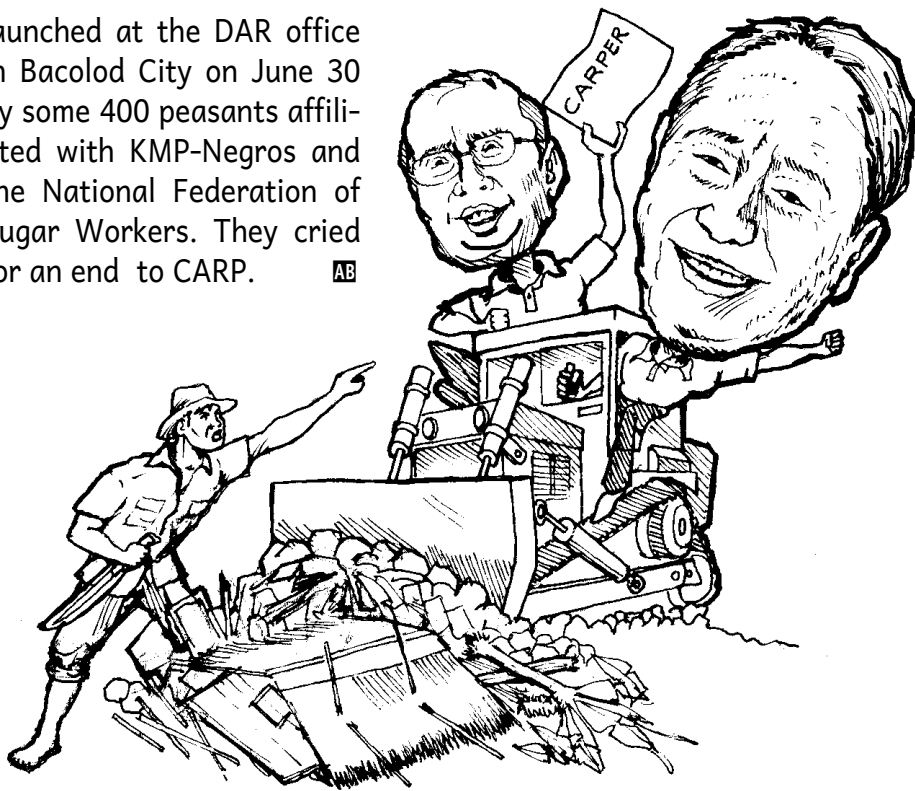
The peasant marchers were members of organizations affiliated with the KMP in Central Luzon, Cagayan, Ilocos, Southern Tagalog and Bicol.

In Central Luzon, farmers began massing up in Angeles City and Porac, Pampanga on June 24 before proceeding to Metro Manila. They were joined by farmers from Tarlac, Pangasinan and Ilocos Sur. Another gathering took place in Cabanatuan City where farmers from Nueva Ecija and Aurora opposed to the Aurora Pacific Economic Zone and Freeport Project (APECO) massed up. They were joined by farmers from Barangay Matusalem, Roxas, Isabela.

On June 28-30, farmers from various parts of Luzon assembled and camped out in front of the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) office in Quezon City. On June 30, they barricaded the office gates before marching to Mendiola.

Another protest action was

launched at the DAR office in Bacolod City on June 30 by some 400 peasants affiliated with KMP-Negros and the National Federation of Sugar Workers. They cried for an end to CARP. AB



PUP students thwart tuition fee hike

STUDENTS of the Polytechnic University of the Philippines (PUP) successfully thwarted an attempt to raise tuition fees in a number of its campuses. More than a thousand students staged a protest action at the office of the Commission on Higher Education on July 2 while university officials were holding a meeting. The students had also walked out of their classes and launched other protests the day before.

In a move dubbed "standardization," the PUP administration planned on raising tuition fees from ₱12 per unit to ₱100 per unit (or an 830% hike) in its campuses in Cabiao (Nueva Ecija), Sta. Maria and Pulilan (Bulacan), Gen. Luna (Quezon), San Pedro and Sta. Rosa (Laguna) and San Juan City. Also to be hiked were the laboratory fee, sports fee and library fee, among others. The increases would have resulted in PUP students paying up to ₱3,000 per semester instead of the usual rate of less than ₱500 per semester.

The students likewise assailed the Aquino regime, which has given its blessings to the gradual commercialization of State Universities and Colleges (SUC). In accordance with the regime's "Roadmap to Public Higher Education Reform," subsidies and budgetary allocations for SUCs will be reduced, compelling them to raise fees and look for other ways to earn income. AB

Health workers oppose PCMC and BGH privatization

Employees and patients of the Philippine Children's Medical Center (PCMC or the Lungsod ng Kabataan) staged a dance-protest on June 28 to oppose plans to transfer the hospital to the Lung Center of the Philippines. The colorful protest, which was led by the #SavePCMC Alliance was mounted to fight the hospital's privatization and commercialization.

Transferring the children's hospital forms part of the planned Quezon City Business District (QCBD), a huge infrastructure project that encompasses the hospital and even the adjacent Philippine Science High School. The area is likewise adjacent to Barangay San Roque, where thousands of families have already been evicted since Aquino became president.

Under Aquino's Public-Private Partnership scheme, the Department of Health plans to cede the PCMC's operations to private investors once the transfer is accomplished.

To justify the relocation, the national government is demanding ₱1.3 billion in rent from the PCMC (which is also government-owned) for its 34-year occupancy of the 3.7-hectare government lot on which it was built. The PCMC is unable to pay the amount because of the small subsidy provided it by the national government, and neither is it capable of raising funds for this purpose. The #SavePCMC Alliance wants the national government to donate the

land instead to the PCMC.

The impending commercialization and privatization of the PCMC will have major implications on health services for children. Out of the more than 130,000 patients serviced by the PCMC annually, 60% are indigent.

Also to be affected are 1,000 doctors, nurses and employees should the PCMC's privatization be realized. They are set to lose their job security or be laid off altogether once the hospital's administration is transferred to a private entity.

Meanwhile, employees of Baguio General Hospital (BGH) rallied on June 27 to oppose the ongoing signing of a memorandum of agreement (MOA) between the hospital management and Manny Pangilinan, who represented the privately-owned Makati Medical Center. The MOA signing was one of the steps taken towards the full privatization of BGH under the Aquino regime's Public-Private Partnership program.

Under privatization, all of the hospital's services will be handled as businesses. This will mean the dismissal of regular employees and their replacement by contractuels. Contractual agencies are now already in charge of some of the hospital's services.

BGH is the only public hospital in Baguio City. Its privatization will mean the loss of a basic service to the city's residents and those of nearby provinces.

AFP suffers 29 casualties in Southern Mindanao

Thirteen soldiers were killed and 16 wounded in successive military actions launched by the Comval-North Davao-South Agusan Subregional Command and the Comval-Davao East Coast Subregional Command of the New People's Army (NPA) on June 20, 22 and 30 in Compostela Valley, Davao del Norte and Davao Oriental.

Davao del Norte. NPA Red fighters thwarted an attempt by 72nd IB troops to encircle them by deploying command-detonated explosives on attacking soldiers in Sitio Mabuhay, Barangay Dacudao, San Isidro at around 6 a.m. of June 22. A soldier was killed and three others wounded. An NPA member was martyred in this firefight.

Compostela Valley. Two elements of the 25th IB were killed and one other soldier wounded in a CDX operation by an NPA unit in Sitio Saog, Barangay San Isidro, Monkayo at around 5:30 a.m. of June 20. Four hours later, two other troops from the same battalion were wounded in a CDX operation by Red fighters in Sitio Anagase, Barangay Casonof the same town.

At 3 p.m. of June 22, Red guerrillas launched another CDX operation, killing five elements of the 46th IB and wounding four others in Barangay Ampawid in Laak town.

These military actions were conducted in the face of an intensified counterrevolutionary campaign in the area by the AFP Eastern Mindanao Command in the second half of June. Nine AFP platoons launched military operations in Laak and six other platoons in Monkayo. Military forces were also dispatched to almost all barangays in Veruela and three platoons sent to Loreto in Agusan del Sur, while three other platoons were sent to Ka-

palong, Davao del Norte.

The heightened military operation comes on the heels of the killing by AFP elements of civilians Wilfredo Estrebillon and Flaviano Morales in Davao del Norte this June.

Davao Oriental. Five soldiers under the 67th IB were killed and six others wounded in a CDX operation by Red fighters of the Comval-Davao East Coast Subregional Command in Barangay Aliwagwag, Cateel at around 10 a.m. of June 30. The soldiers were then on patrol.

The abusive 67th IB troops are protectors of destructive large-scale loggers in the province. Despite the massive devastation of typhoon Pablo in Davao Oriental in 2012, large-scale logging goes on unabated in the remaining forests. Bureaucrat capitalists in the area like Gov. Corazon Malanyaon and Rep. Elmer Dayanghirang also support large-scale logging in the province. Cateel mayor Camilo Nuñez himself is a big logger.

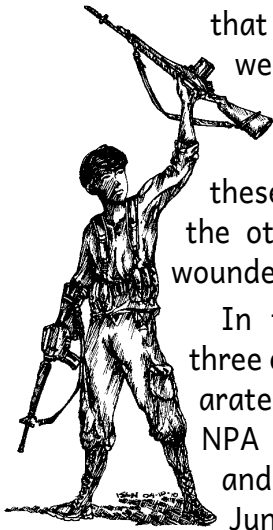
NPA-NEMR maintains initiative in battle

The New People's Army (NPA) in Northeastern Mindanao Region (NEMR) continues to maintain the initiative in battle in the face of intensified military operations by the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) in the region since January, with the AFP adding three battalions to the five battalions originally deployed to NEMR.

According to Ka Maria Malaya, spokesperson of the National Democratic Front-NEMR, 44 out of the 50 firefights that occurred in the region from January to June were initiated by the NPA and only six were initiated by the enemy.

The enemy suffered 77 casualties in these gunbattles (39 killed and 38 wounded). On the other hand, seven were martyred and seven wounded on the NPA side.

In the latest battlefield reports from NEMR, three elements of the 26th IB were wounded in separate harassment operations conducted by two NPA teams in the adjacent barangays of Ararat and San Juan in Bayugan City, Agusan del Sur on June 16 and 17.



4 soldiers killed in Albay

Four elements of the Philippine Army 9th Infantry Division were killed by Red fighters of the New People's Army (NPA) in separate ambushes launched in Daraga town and Ligao City. The NPA seized two cal .45 pistols from these gunbattles.

Two soldiers from the 9th Recon Coy were killed after being waylaid by an NPA team in Barangay Busac, Ligao City as they were on the way to their camp in Barangay Oma-oma in the same city at 4 p.m. of June 28. The Red fighters seized a cal .45 pistol.

Earlier, another NPA team ambushed elements of the 9th ID Civil Military Operation (CMO) in Sitio Banasian, Barangay San Ramon, Daraga on June 16, killing a sergeant and a soldier and seizing another cal .45 pistol.

Meanwhile, in Sorsogon, the 31st IB suffered at least three casualties in a CDX operation by Red guerrillas under the Celso Minguéz Command in Barangay Fabrica, Barcelonene on June 21.

Pregnant woman illegally arrested

THE military illegally arrested a woman who was four months pregnant in Barangay Ilayang Iyam, Lucena City in Quezon on June 20. Maria Miradel Torres, 26, a member of GABRIELA-Mauban was captured while staying in a relative's house due to her difficult pregnancy.

According to human rights watchdog KARAPATAN, Torres was arrested by elements of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) and the AFP Southern Luzon Command and accused of being a member of the New People's Army. She was interrogated by a "rebel returnee" and another man known only as "PO2" and was told that she had a murder case, but was not presented with an arrest warrant. Her parents only learned of her whereabouts when she was brought to Camp General Narkar Hospital two days after her arrest. Her mother was not allowed to see her in detention.

On June 25, she was brought to Camp Bagong Diwa in Bicutan, Taguig, which worsened her condition. She continues to bleed because her medications were confiscated and she has not had any rest.

KARAPATAN has assailed the CIDG and AFP for arresting Torres and fears that she may suffer the same experience as Andrea Rosal who was also pregnant when arrested and whose baby died two days after delivery.

Bombings in Bayugan City spur evacuations

RESIDENTS of Barangay Ararat and adjacent barrios of Bayugan City, Agusan del Sur were forced to evacuate on June 18 after the 26th IB rained bombs and artillery shells on nearby Mt. Ararat.

The military dispatched additional troops to Sitio Lanao, Barangay Magkayangyang and shelled Mt. Ararat at around 12:30 p.m., using two 105 mm howitzers.

Not content, the military also dropped nine bombs from two OV-10 airplanes from 2:30 to 3 p.m. The enemy likewise indiscriminately strafed Mt. Ararat and another hill nearby, using cal .50 machine guns. According to initial reports, the house of a number of local residents were slightly hit by bombs and machine gun bullets. **AB**

Panay NGO ransacked

THREE unidentified men ransacked the office of the Panay Center for Disaster Response (PCDR) in Jaro, Iloilo at around 1 a.m. of June 19. Three women relief workers who were at the office were bound, gagged with packaging tape and locked in a room.

The masked men took two laptop computers, flash drives, cellphones, logbooks and ledgers, cameras and photographs documenting the PCDR's relief operations all over Panay island.

The PCDR is a non-government organization (NGO) providing assistance and rehabilitation to calamity victims in the entire island. In the past few months, it has been able to assist 50,000 families in communities devastated by typhoon Yolanda in Northern Iloilo, Capiz, Antique and Aklan. It is a partner NGO of the Catholic relief agency Caritas International and Tulong Kabataan Volunteer Network-Panay. **AB**