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Editorial

Wage all-out resistance against Aquino's cha-cha and term extension scheme

The Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) urgently calls on the Filipino people to wage intense struggle against the Aquino clique's moves to extend its stay in power through Marcos-style measures .

The Aquino clique is targeting the amendment of the 1987 constitution (cha-cha) in order to clip the Supreme Court's powers to stop Aquino from doing as he pleases. Like Marcos, Aquino wants the other branches of the reactionary government to become his rubberstamps and serve as mere facades to conceal his dictatorial conduct.

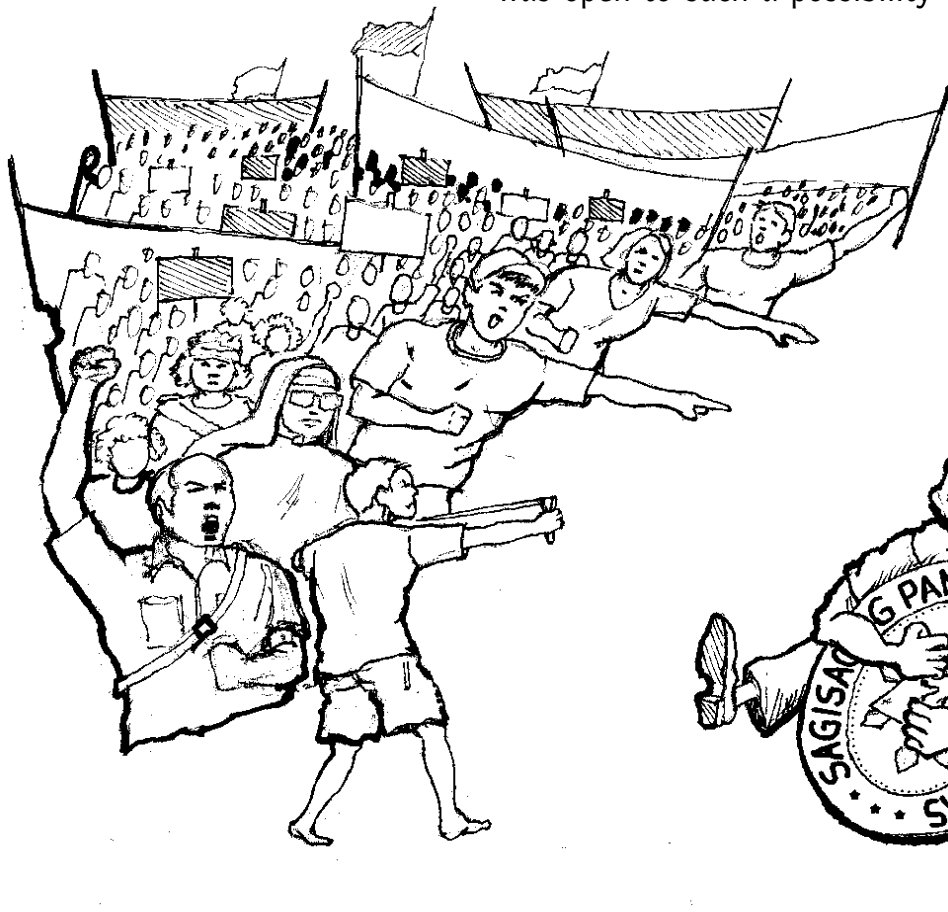
The Aquino clique, especially its minions in Congress, is likewise focused on amending the constitution to allow Aquino to extend his current term or run for a second term. Its members are now in a mad scramble to create the illusion of mass support for Aquino in order for him to stay in power after Aquino stated that he was open to such a possibility

if it was in accordance with "his bosses' wishes."

Aquino's backpedalling on the cha-cha issue demonstrates desperation in the face of the worsening political crisis faced by the ruling regime. I is a move to consolidate his own power due to fears that he and his cohorts would be ousted on or before 2016 and held accountable for graft, plunder and other crimes against the people.

Aquino's statements blatantly manifest his dictatorial bent, his desire to monopolize political power and dismantle all obstacles and questions to his "righteous" rule. His statements have further stoked the fires of the people's anger and spurred a blitz of brickbats from the people who have had enough of Aquino's policies. They have,

after all, brought nothing but skyrocketing prices of goods and services, very low wages, widespread landlessness and land-grabbing, massive unemployment and unprecedented hunger and poverty.



On top of these burdens is brutal militarization and other grave violations of human rights.

The people have long hated Aquino because of the stench of corruption that his regime has been reeking out. Bureaucrat capitalism has worsened under the Aquino regime because of its efforts to consolidate its power through the use of the nation's coffers to favor cronies and contributors to Aquino's election kitty.

The people detest his use of the Priority Development Assistance Fund (PDAF), Development Acceleration Program (DAP) and other pork barrel programs allotting billions of pesos of government funds according to Aquino's prerogative and caprice. Aquino has arrogated the power to decide which programs or projects would suffer budget cuts or be deprived of funds altogether in order to use the monies for his businessman-cronies and politicians loyal to his clique.

Despite widespread criticism of the pork barrel, Aquino

insists on maintaining tens of billions of pesos under Malacañang's direct control. There have been recent exposés of how Aquino concealed from the public the system of providing funds for various government agency programs "nominated" by senators, congressmen and local officials as a means of buying their loyalty and support.

Thus, in reality, Aquino has long been running his government like a dictatorship. He is able to get everything he wants from Congress which is ruled by his minions and apologists. Aquino now plans to obtain even greater power through cha-cha. When he is able to realize his avowed goal of clipping the powers of the Supreme Court, he will have enthroned himself as a dictator.

With the continuing disclosures of corruption, repression and puppetry, Aquino has grown increasingly isolated from, and despised by, the people. It is no wonder that Malacañang officials and Aquino's

propagandists have been straining to portray the fiction of growing support for Aquino to justify measures to extend his power. All of Aquino's gimmickry on the internet and in the media have been contemptuously ignored by the public.


Aquino's statements baring his objective of attaining greater powers have likewise further driven various petty bourgeois forces, groups and personalities to join forces with entities opposed to the ruling regime. They have grown more active in expressing their opposition to Aquino's rotten rule.

The struggles of the broad masses of the people to oust the Aquino regime must be fired up even more. Aquino must not be allowed to use cha-cha or any other political maneuver to extend his stay in power and evade the people's verdict and punishment.

The Filipino people must likewise be vigilant of reactionary politicians who want to amend the constitution to do away with provisions that impose limits on foreign ownership and control of Philippine industries.

Goaded by US imperialism, these politicians are likewise targeting the removal or amendment of provisions prohibiting the construction of foreign military bases and facilities. This has no other purpose but to ratify the newly signed Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement (EDCA) which allows the US military to build facilities in various parts of the country.

The people must pull all stops to hold Aquino accountable for his sellout of national sovereignty, for raiding the nation's coffers and for his onerous and repressive measures against the people. **AB**

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The Palparan style is alive and well under Aquino

When a joint team of NBI and Naval Intelligence forces captured (ret.) Maj. Gen. Jovito Palpaan on August 12 in Sta. Mesa, Manila, Benigno Aquino III and his drumbeaters immediately seized the opportunity to "cleanse" the image of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), saying that the AFP's reputation has been transformed from that of butcher to people's defender. The fascist military's bloodied hands had seemingly been washed just because of Palparan's capture.

Other military officers were likewise quick to join the chorus. They said that Palparan's arrest served him well because now he could respond to all the charges levelled against him. They even contemptuously dared Palparan's victims to present evidence to support their accusations. The Association of Generals and Flag Officers (AGFO), a group of retired generals also decried the democratic organizations for branding Palparan as "the butcher" and hailed his "sacrifices."

These officers could ill-conceal their admiration for the fascist Palparan, calling him a "professional soldier" and an "aggressive officer" with his "own style" of performing his duties.

Their idol has left behind a long and bloody record. When Palparan became chief of the AFP 204th Brigade in Mindoro from 2001-2003, his death squad killed 37 people in Oriental Mindoro. The most notorious cases were the murders of Eden Marcellana (who headed KARAPATAN-Southern Tagalog) and Eddie Gumanoy (leader of the peasant group KASAMA-TK). He branded all members of the progressive movement as terrorists and included them among his death squad's targets.

Gloria Arroyo rewarded Palparan with a series of promo-

tions. After temporary postings in Rizal and overseas, he was appointed chief of the 8th Infantry Division in Eastern Visayas from February to August 2004. Just days into his posting at the 8th ID, Palparan immediately ordered the killing of the region's leading human rights lawyer and activists in order to cripple the democratic movement's ability to resist his fascist onslaught. In his six-month stint, there were up to 36 extrajudicial killings and 712 other cases of human rights violations in the region.

From September 2005 to September 2006, he became chief of the Seventh Infantry Division in Central Luzon. It was at this point that Karen Empeño and Sherlyn Cadapan, both students of the University of the Philippines, and their companion, peasant Manuel Meriño were abducted in Hagonoy, Bulacan. Witnesses said Palparan himself was present at clandestine detention centers in Fort Magsaysay, Nueva Ecija where the three were imprisoned. Tens of thousands were abducted, killed and fell victim to other human rights violations in Central Luzon under Palparan.

The special favors

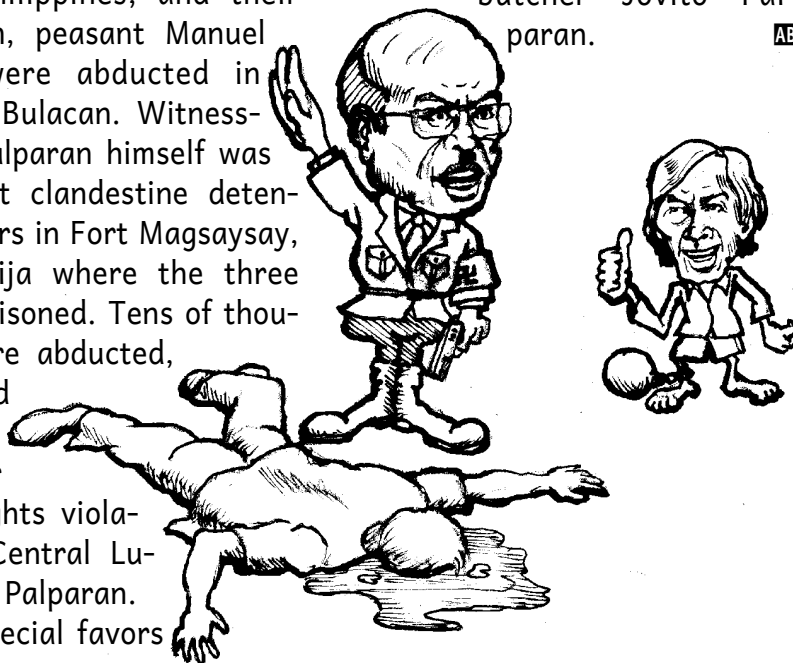
being extended by the Aquino regime to Palparan are execrable. Upon his "arrest," he was presented to the media and allowed to speak in a virtual press conference for his benefit.

Palparan may be under detention but human rights violations persist without letup as the Aquino regime implements Oplan Bayanihan. Despite its peace and human rights rhetoric, there have been 204 victims of extrajudicial killings under the Aquino regime. There have also been 99 cases of torture, 664 cases of illegal arrest and detention and 39,000 victims of forced evacuation.

Among the more prominent victims of extrajudicial killing during the Aquino regime are Fr. Fausto Tentorio (October 2011), Romeo Capalla (March 2014), Jimmy Liguyon (March 2012) and Juvy Capion and her two sons (October 2013).

Palparan has been absent from active counterrevolution for some years, but the Palparan style is alive and well. The AFP cannot assail Palparan, because that would be tantamount to censoring itself. The Aquino regime feign innocence because it is just as fascist as the Arroyo regime that coddled and heaped praises on the butcher Jovito Palparan.

AB



Government employees up in arms against new taxes

Government employees are up in arms against an order from the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) imposing withholding taxes on their fringe benefits like allowances, bonuses and the like.

One of the latest groups to oppose the new order was the Sandigan ng mga Empleyadong Nagkakaisa sa Adhikain ng Demokratikong Organisasyon (S.E.N.A.D.O.-COURAGE). Up to a hundred members of the group wearing red ribbons and

buttons attended a hearing by the Senate Committee on Ways and Means on August 12 where they asserted that instead of imposing a new round of taxes that would reduce their incomes, the government should raise their wages from a measly

₱9,000 per month to ₱15,000 per month.

Prior to this, Supreme Court employees likewise launched a protest action on August 6 and petitioned the highest court for a temporary restraining order on the BIR's onerous order.

COURAGE (Confederation and Unity of Government Employees), with which the two groups are affiliated has under its wing 12 employees' associations and public sector unions in various parts of the country. **AB**

Aquino's PPP projects for big compradors

Ang *Bayan* tackled in its previous issue how the contract for the construction of the LRT 1 line to Cavite is overwhelmingly lopsided in favor of Ayala Corporation and Metro Pacific Investments Corporation (MPIC) and deleterious to the people's interests. The Aquino regime's pandering to big comprador interests is also apparent in other big contracts under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) where big capitalists benefit from the hundreds of billions of pesos invested by the government and the latter's profit guarantees.

Mactan-Cebu Airport Expansion. The Aquino government awarded the contract for the expansion of the Mactan International Airport to Henry Sy's Megawide Corporation and his business partner, the Indian-owned GMR. The contract allows Megawide-GMR to control the country's second largest airport and enjoy absolute monopoly over the terminal's operation as well as other related services for 25 years.

Among the contract's provisions is a ban on the construction of other airports and related businesses in Mactan and Cebu for the next 25 years in order for Megawide to monopolize air traffic and related commerce in these islands. To ensure the absence of competi-

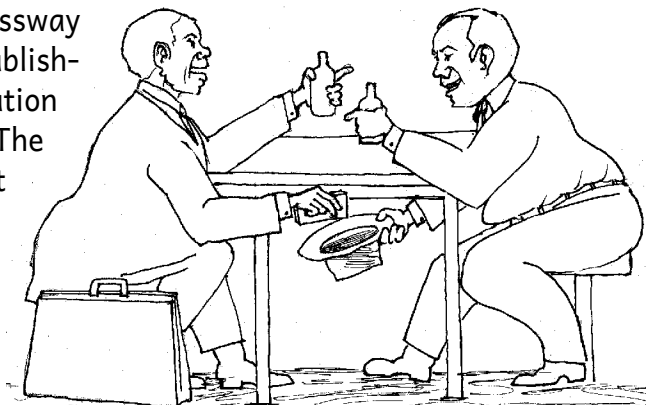
tion, there is also a ban on the construction of any facility (parking lots, hotels and the like) within a 500-meter radius.

NAIA expressway. The Aquino regime has awarded the ₱15.52-billion NAIA expressway contract to San Miguel Corp. (SMC) which is owned by Benigno Aquino III's uncle Eduardo Cojuangco Jr. Under this project, a road from the Manila airport going to Roxas Boulevard, Coastal Expressway and hotels and establishments in the reclamation area will be built. The road management concession has also been awarded to SMC and will last for 30 years.

SMC is set to col-

lect a toll fee of ₱35-45 for the use of the road. It also has the right to raise its fees at the stipulated time. At these rates, the SMC will be earning up to ₱2.6 billion annually from the estimated 150,000-160,000 vehicles that will be using the road daily. Thus, SMC will be able to recoup its expenses in just a little more than six years.

Already enjoying a strong status within the transport sector with its control over the NAIA Expressway, SMC has been given a further boost by being awarded the contract for the construction of the SLEX Elevated Skyway with help from its Indonesian business partner Citra Corporation. Cojuangco has likewise been awarded the contract for the construction of the Tarlac-La Union Expressway whose operation is scheduled to begin this year. **AB**



AFP suffers 14 casualties in Agusan

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) suffered 14 casualties in four successive military actions successfully launched by the New People's Army (NPA) in Agusan against the 26th and 29th IB of the Philippine Army on August 5, 9 and 10.

This, the NPA accomplished amid intensified AFP operations in San Luis and Talacogon towns in Agusan del Sur and in Buenavista, Agusan del Norte. Four military elements were killed and ten wounded while the Red fighters under the NPA West Agusan Norte-Agusan Sur Subregional Command suffered zero casualties.

Red fighters twice harassed 26th IB troops and clashed with elements of the paramilitary Special CAFGU Active Auxiliary (SCAA) in Agusan del Sur. A soldier under the 26th IB was killed and four others wounded in an NPA harassment operation against the patrolling troops in Km. 18, Barangay Don Alejandrino, San Luis on August 10.

On the other hand, two elements from the same battalion were killed and two others wounded when the 26th IB sent soldiers to reinforce 15 SCAA elements who had clashed with the NPA at 6:20 a.m. on August 5 in Purok 7, Barangay Zellovia, Talacogon. The NPA unit waiting in ambush used command-detonated explosives (CDX) on the soldiers. An SCAA element was killed and another paramilitary wounded in the earlier gunbattle. The scene of the fighting was only a kilometer away from the 26th IB detachment.

The 26th IB is the protector of Provident Tree Farm Inc. and the paramilitary SCAA serves as the company's

guards. PFTI is involved in seizing peasants' lands, is environmentally destructive and exploits its workers.

Meanwhile, a soldier from the 29th IB was killed and two others wounded when Red fighters harassed patrolling military troops in Sitio Afga, Barangay Olave, Buenavista at noon of August 9.



Military actions in Negros

Four enemy elements were killed in three successive military actions by the New People's Army in Guihulngan City, Negros Oriental in June. According to the Leonardo Panaligan Command (LPC-NPA), two soldiers under the 12th IB were killed when Red fighters opened fire on the military unit's detachment at 8 p.m. of June 12. Residents of Barangay Sandayao had long been demanding punishment for the soldiers who are responsible for widespread abuses against civilians such as threats, beatings and indiscriminate firing, which have all been a bane to the locality.

The NPA also implemented on June 23 a decision of the people's court meting capital punishment on Aljin Mogelio. The court had found Mogelio guilty of gunning down Guihulngan town councilor Cyrus Fat on February 13, 2014. Mogelio was a former element of the CAFGU Active Auxiliary and an intelligence asset of the AFP and the police.

On June 18, the NPA likewise enforced capital punishment on Jose Baquilta, who led the killing of the Escoba couple in Sitio Punong, Barangay Trinidad in 1987. He was also a member of "Kadre," a fanatic group that joined military troops and CAFGU elements in burning down more than 40 houses in Sitio Kalubasa, Barangay Tacpao, Guihulngan in 1988. Baquilta was also involved in the heinous massacre of a family in Barangay Trinidad. The victims were first raped before their bodies were hacked and mutilated.

Peasant activist killed in Quezon

A peasant activist was mercilessly killed in Quezon, while two student activists were abducted in Nueva Ecija. In Iloilo, a former comrade was illegally arrested and misrepresented by the military as a leading cadre of the Ilocos-Cordillera Region (ICR).

Quezon. Suspected state agents gunned down Hildegardo "Gil" Hernandez, 48, in Barangay Sta. Catalina, Candelaria in the afternoon of August 6. Hernandez was an active member of Pagkakaisa ng mga Magsasaka at Tagapagtaguyod sa Ikalawang Distrito ng Quezon (Pamatid-Quezon). Two assailants aboard a motorcycle fired at Hernandez who sustained gunshot wounds to the head, face, neck and torso.

Hernandez, who also organized small coconut farmers in Quezon was part of a group preparing relief operations for victims of typhoon Glenda when he was killed. He is the 108th peasant victim of extrajudicial killing under the Aquino regime.

Nueva Ecija. Elements of the 3rd IB of the Philippine Army abducted Guiller Martin Cadano, 22, and Gerald Salonga, 24, in Barangay R.T. Padilla, Carranglan on August 9. Cadano is the regional coordinator of Kabataan Partylist-Central Luzon and Salonga is an organizer for Anakbayan-Central Luzon. They are both graduates of the University of the Philippines Dili-man-Extension Program in Pampanga (UP-DEPP).

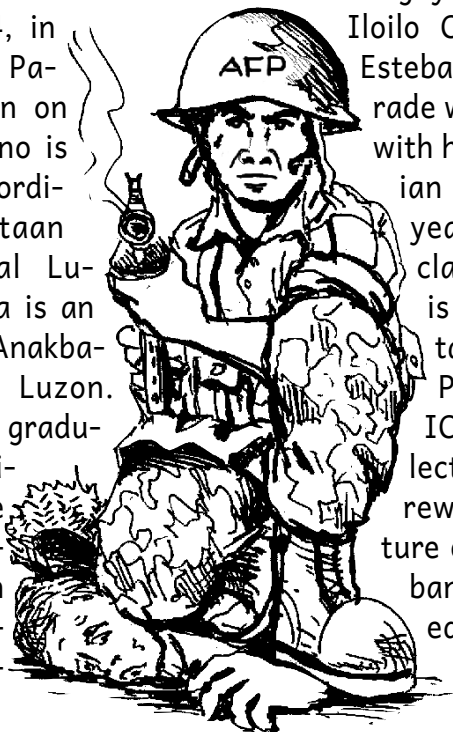
After the military

forced its way into the house they were staying, they were ordered to lie face down and were blindfolded. Cadano was bound when he was pushed into a red van while Salonga was forced aboard a white pick-up truck. They were brought to a remote area where they were forced to admit to being members of the New People's Army.

They were surfaced and transferred to police custody only after KARAPATAN-Central Luzon conducted a fact-finding mission on August 10. They are currently detained at the headquarters of the Philippine National Police Provincial Public Safety Company in Cabanatuan, Nueva Ecija.

Iloilo City. Combined police and military forces illegally arrested Eduardo Almores Esteban, 60, in his house in Barangay Buntatala, Jaro, Iloilo City on August 5.

Esteban is a former comrade who has been living with his family as a civilian for close to ten years. The AFP claimed that Esteban is the former secretary of the Regional Party Committee in ICR in order to collect the P5.8-million reward for the capture of a "Manuel Esteban" who is purportedly a leading cadre in ICR. Eduardo Esteban has never operated in ICR. **AB**



Reopen the Hda. Luisita massacre case!

Survivors and relatives of victims of the Hacienda Luisita Massacre are demanding the reopening of the case in a renewed bid for justice. They rallied in front of the office of the Ombudsman in Quezon City on August 4 to air their grievances.

Almost ten years have passed since the massacre was perpetrated. Soldiers opened fire on November 16, 2004 at thousands of farm workers protesting in front of Hacienda Luisita gates, killing seven protesters and wounding scores of others.

The case was first filed with the Ombudsman by 52 victims in January 2005. Among the accused were then congressman Benigno S. Aquino III who was the active administrator of Hacienda Luisita Inc. and then Northern Luzon Command (NOLCOM) chief Lt. Gen. Gregorio Catapang, Jr. who was the ground commander when the soldiers opened fire. Aquino recently appointed him AFP chief of staff.

In a resolution issued only after a few months, the Ombudsman dismissed the complaint against Aquino and other government officials. In the second resolution issued December 2010, the Ombudsman acquitted General Catapang and other accused military and police officers and personnel.

The victims were pro-

foundly saddened by the dismissal of these cases. Their anger mounted with the killings of Ricardo Ramos and Tirso Cruz, peasant leaders who were among the plaintiffs, as well as of other supporters. Meanwhile, accused Aquino and Catapang now occupy powerful positions in the reactionary state.

Under the Aquino regime, the farm workers of Hacienda Luisita have been denied both justice and genuine land reform. The peasants have been driven from their land in the past several months, particularly in the villages of Balete, Cutcut and Mapalacsiao in Tarlac City.

The Cojuangco-Aquino-owned Tarlac Development Corp. (Tadeco) has been leading efforts to seize the land occupied by the farmers who have been slapped with trumped-up cases. Several hectares planted to crops have been bulldozed, farms fenced off, houses razed and the farmers themselves driven from the land. Tadeco has been using armed goons supported by the police and the AFP 3rd Mechanized Battalion.

The latest violent incident occurred on August 6 when goons destroyed the crops of 68-year old Charlito Catalan of Barangay Mapalacsiao. As recently as June 25, armed thugs destroyed the rice and vegetable farms and seed bed being managed by Catalan and his team of peasants from the Alyansa ng mga Manggagawang Bukid sa Asyenda Luisita (AMBALA). The land in Mapalacsiao is being claimed by Virgie Torres, a close friend of Aquino. AB

Bio-ethanol project brings added hardships

Ecofuel Land Development-Green Futures Innovations Inc. (Ecofuel-GFII) has brought the opposite of the development, employment and progressive community it promised to villages in San Mariano and Benito Soliven, Isabela. Ecofuel-GFII is the biggest ethanol plant in the country.

Since it began operations, local residents have been raising numerous land, labor, health and environmental issues. Several dialogues have taken place, but the company has failed to undertake concrete measures to address the people's grievances.

Land issue. To ensure ethanol production and an expanding source of raw materials, Ecofuel-GFII has resorted to contract growing of sugar cane on top of managing its own plantation.

In cahoots with a number of politicians, landlords and former loggers, Ecofuel-GFII has been invoking reforestation as a pretext to annex logged over lands that have been transformed into productive farmlands by peasants.

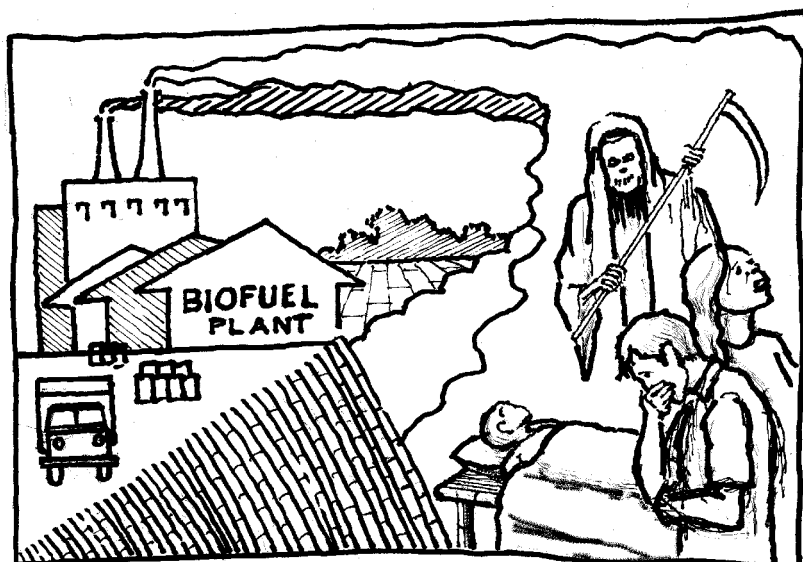
For instance, unscrupulous individuals are claiming 1,000 hectares along the common borders of Minanga, Disusuan and Dibuluan villages in San Mariano which had long been developed into farmland by

Ilocanos, Ibanags, Kalingas, Ifugaos and Aggays. Among the claimants are Sonny Rodriguez, an employee of the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples. *(See related article)*

There have also been cases where peasants were not fully compensated for the use of their land. In one village, Ecofuel paid the farmers only half of the agreed rent after using the land for three years.

Health and environmental issues. The Isabela Task Force Ethanol has held several dialogues with the company regarding the stench and the ashes coming from the bio-ethanol plant, the destruction of their roads, the use of liquid fertilizer and the stalks that scatter after falling off Ecofuel's trucks loading sugar cane.

Residents have also been complaining about the offensive smell and toxicity of the liquid fertilizer being used and thrown into farmlands and a nearby river by Ecofuel. In-



stead of being of help to crops and the environment, the fertilizer has been a bane to the people.

The ash spewed by the ethanol plant has been causing abdominal pain and asthma and penetrates houses and schools. On the other hand, in Sta Filomena, instead of the company, it is the barangay that shoulders the expenses of cleaning up after sugar cane stalks falling from trucks litter the streets.

Noise from the plant reaches long distances and affects schoolchildren and residents of nearby communities.

Labor issues. Ecofuel-GFII hires farm workers from as far as Mindoro and Negros through illegal contractors. Whenever production at the plant is at a standstill, the farm workers are terminated en masse. The workers are hired by the company only for a specific period do not enjoy job security.

Aside from failing to pay the agreed wage of ₱300 per ton of sugar cane hauled, the company delays paying wages to its farm workers for up to three months. When the workers complained, they were not paid altogether and were merely given transport fare back to their provinces.

In the case of farm workers hired from Negros, the contractor engaged by Ecofuel promised them benefits and wages higher than those paid in the Negros sugar cane plantations. Upon their arrival in Isabela, however, they received less pay with so many deductions, failed to receive any benefits and ended up deep in debt. AB

Landgrabbing in the name of reforestation

Landgrabbing has grown more widespread in Cagayan Valley though the use of a reforestation program known as the National Greening Project (NGP).

The NGP was launched through Executive Order (EO) 26 in May 2011 ostensibly for the Aquino regime's aggressive reforestation program. The program targets the planting of trees on 1.5 million hectares of public land from 2011 to 2016. Like previous reforestation programs, however, the NGP is riddled with corruption and paves the way for the seizure of land from peasant and minority settlers.

In Isabela, Nueva Vizcaya and Quirino provinces, 67% of the total 1.7 million-hectare land area is still classified as forest land even if the latter had long been cleared, settled and farmed by peasants. It is these lands that are being targeted for reforestation.

In Isabela, up to 200,000 hectares are by the province's Integrated Social Forestry Program. Countless rules, regulations and prohibitions imposed by the program have driven

residents and tillers away from the mountains.

Reps. Ana Go and Jun Carreon have invoked the NGP to claim and annex close to 1,000 hectares of land within their former logging concession. They had lands in villages within San Mariano town surveyed aggressively, even if this meant the displacement of farmer and minority settlers who have been eking a living off these lands.

The cancellation of applications for Integrated Forest Management Agreements (IFMA) in San Mariano paved the way for the entry of the NGP in the foothills of the Sierra Madre. The program allots a fund of ₱50,000 per hectare, and farmers are contracted to plant trees in the lands they have settled. But they are paid only ₱10 per square meter or ₱10,000 per hectare. This means that as much as ₱40,000 per hectare has been allotted



for corruption by DENR officials.

In Barangay Disulap, the 4Ps program is being used to coerce recipients into planting trees. They are threatened by the DSWD that their names would be stricken off the list of beneficiaries should they fail to plant trees.

The NGP will also be covering a 100-hectare area settled by Ayta and Ifugao tribespeople in the villages of San Jose and Casala. The bio-ethanol company has also been exploiting the minority people's poverty by saying that they would be paid by the company in exchange for the use of their

land. To prevent opposition, a military operation by the 86th IB was launched simultaneous to a land survey conducted in March-April. The company has also been exploiting the minorities' low literacy levels by telling them that the contract is for three years instead of the six years actually stipulated.

In Diffun town in Quirino, a 300-hectare gmelina plantation is slated for expansion to 500 hectares under the NGP. The plantation which spans four villages was planted to corn by peasants before the DENR included the land in a reforestation program in 1997. The DENR claims that the peasants

still own the land and receive wages for planting gmelina.

Since then, the DENR has declared the area as a forest zone. None of the DENR's promises to the peasants has been fulfilled. In addition, the DENR bans peasants from cutting trees and planting crops in portions of the land covered by the reforestation contracts. The DENR has assigned managers to oversee the plantations. Currently, one of these managers has been claiming the land for his own and has begun using armed goons to stand guard and intimidate the people who want to reclaim their land. **AB**

DAP and the killer dam in Iloilo

Millions from the Development Acceleration Program (DAP) illegally funded Senate Pres. Franklin Drilon's pet project—the Jalaur River Multipurpose Project Phase II (JRMP-II) in Calinog town, Iloilo, Drilon's home province. This anomalous project is one of the bases for the third impeachment complaint filed against Benigno Aquino III by the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP).

Budget Secretary Florencio "Butch" Abad lined up the JRMP-II as "Item 44" in the projects funded by DAP funds. The project had an ₱11.2-billion budget approved by Aquino on December 21, 2011 with ₱450 million as Drilon's share. The Supreme Court, however, declared the DAP unconstitutional and illegal on July 1.

The JRMP-II is targeted for completion in 2016. It comprises three dams—the Jalaur reservoir, after-bay and catch dam; a 6.6-megawatt hydropower plant; and an 81-kilometer line canal. Aquino boasted in his 2014 SONA that it will provide jobs to 17,000 Panayanons.

But he failed to mention

that more than 17,000 farmers and minorities in the uplands of Calinog and the villages along the Jalaur riverbanks will be displaced and deprived of their livelihoods.

In 2013, Bagong Alyansang Makabayan-Panay, KMP, Kalikasan-PNE and the Jalaur River for the People Movement petitioned the Supreme Court for a Temporary Environmental Protection Order (TEPO) to stop the construction of the megadam. They said that an investigation by the Advocates of Science and Technology for the People (Agham) in September 2012 revealed that the

JRMP-II's construction site is dangerous. Farmer and minority communities will definitely be submerged should the megadam construction continue because the site forms part of the Western Panay Fault Line. Many of the island's residents were adversely affected when the fault line moved on January 25, 1948 during an earthquake dubbed "Lady Caycay" which registered a magnitude of 8.2 on the Richter Scale. **AB**

