

ANG

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Editorial

Youth, join the people's war!

The entire Filipino nation will be commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Kabataang Makabayan (KM) on November 30. The entire nation, especially the mass of workers and peasants hail the huge role KM has played in the last 50 years in advancing the people's democratic revolution and the important role it will be playing in the future.

Let us honor all the youth who have offered their lives in advancing the national-demo-

cratic movement in the various fields of struggle, especially in the arena of armed struggle. Let us salute the youth who comprise the biggest proportion of Red fighters nationwide. They tread the path of armed revolution for national and social liberation that was first laid by the young sons and daughters of the people under Andres Bonifacio's leadership.

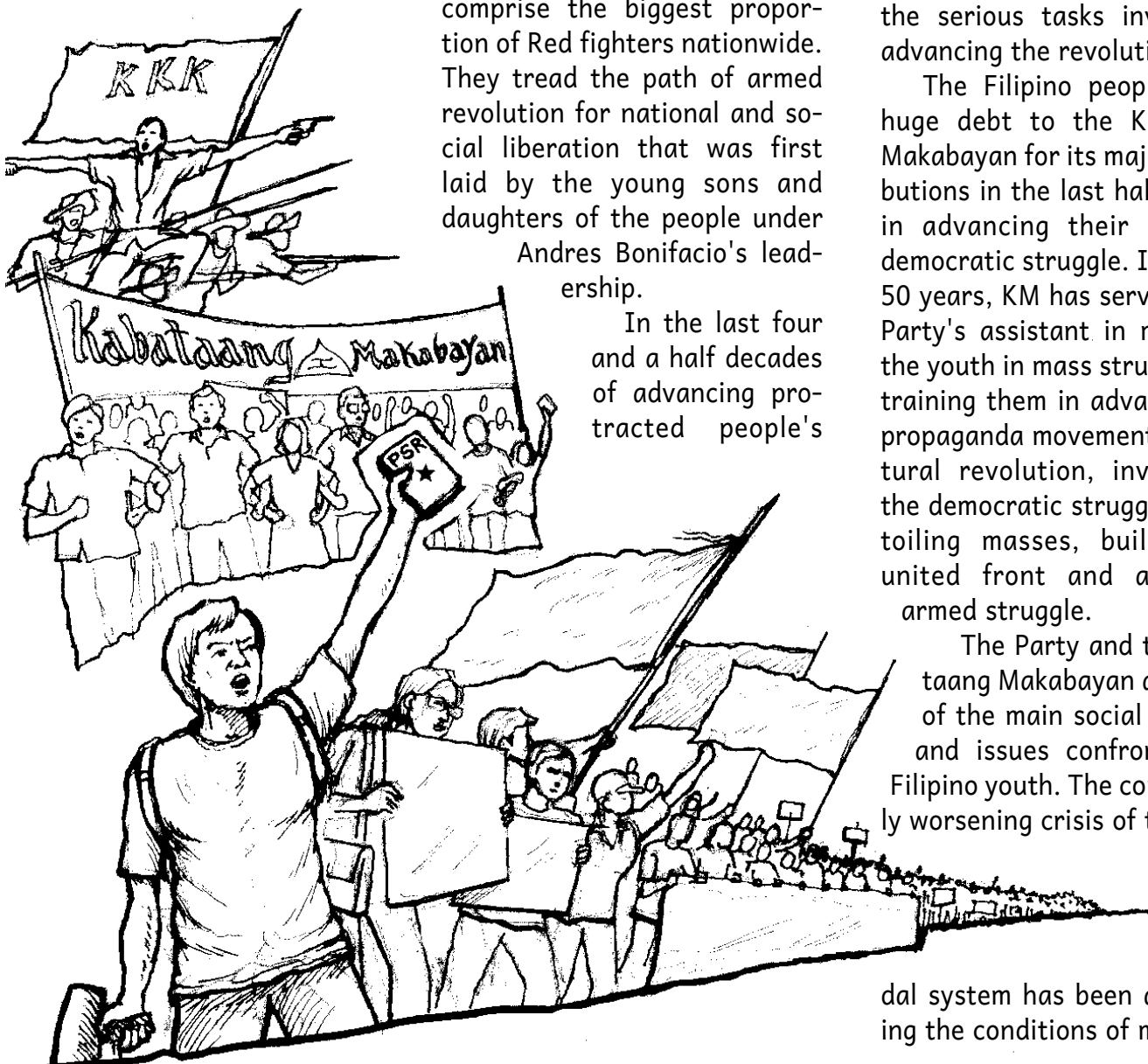
In the last four and a half decades of advancing protracted people's

war, the Kabataang Makabayan has served as a wellspring of new Red fighters and commanders of the New People's Army and members and cadres of the Communist Party of the Philippines.

Because young revolutionaries continually emerge, the Party and the NPA remain vibrant and daring in shouldering the serious tasks involved in advancing the revolution.

The Filipino people owe a huge debt to the Kabataang Makabayan for its major contributions in the last half century in advancing their national-democratic struggle. In the last 50 years, KM has served as the Party's assistant in mobilizing the youth in mass struggles and training them in advancing the propaganda movement and cultural revolution, invigorating the democratic struggles of the toiling masses, building the united front and advancing armed struggle.

The Party and the Kabataang Makabayan are aware of the main social problems and issues confronting the Filipino youth. The continuously worsening crisis of the ruling semicolonial and semifeudal system has been aggravating the conditions of millions of



young workers, peasants and petty bourgeoisie.

The number of out of school youth has doubled in the last decade due to the worsening commercialization of education. Tuition, miscellaneous fees and other school expenses have relentlessly increased. The reactionary government insists on cutting down on its social expenditures, including its budgetary allocation for education, even as it keeps on strengthening the role of the big bourgeoisie in public education.

Alongside the commercialization of education is stepped-up campus repression. Capitalist school owners in connivance with state security agencies have been suppressing campus journalism, organizations and other student rights with the goal of repressing the students' collective defiance of policies designed to amass more profits.

The implementation of the K-12 program has further geared Philippine education towards training cheap labor for export or for the burgeoning lo-

cal army of the unemployed. Half of the unemployed or underemployed are from the youth. An economy devoid of an industrial base, dependent on foreign investments and debt and subject to big foreign capitalist plunder is incapable of generating sufficient employment. The youth are forced to apply at call centers and suffer severe oppression and brutal working conditions.

As adjutants to the Party, the cadres and members of the Kabataang Makabayan are able to reach out to vast numbers of Filipino youth in colleges and high schools. They arouse and mobilize the youth on the basis of the day to day problems they confront and raise their consciousness on how these are rooted in the basic problems of the Filipino people. They provide political education to the youth in order to fire up their progressive and patriotic fervor.

Through KM, proletarian revolutionaries are continually able to take deep root among


the student youth and mobilize them in advancing the people's democratic revolution. They are able to touch base with the youth and people in communities, factories and offices.

Conditions exist for the resurgence of the revolutionary youth-student movement. No effort must be spared in arousing, reaching out to, organizing and mobilizing the student youth in order to advance their democratic welfare and rouse them to join the people's democratic revolution.

The new and historic participation of great numbers of the youth in street protests and countryside work is a necessary adjunct in the advance of the protracted people's war towards the next stage of strategic stalemate. When the urban-based youth join the New People's Army in droves, they will have made a huge contribution to the further invigoration of armed struggle in the countryside.

The resoundingly victorious tactical offensives of the NPA in the countryside inspire the youth and people in the cities. On the other hand, the broad mass struggles and growing street demonstrations invigorate the revolutionary forces in the countryside.

The continuing emergence of new generations of young proletarian revolutionaries is a factor in the Communist Party of the Philippines' neverending enthusiasm and optimism. Young revolutionaries infuse the Party not just with their physical strength, but with their refreshing determination and perspective in resolving problems and advancing the revolutionary movement. They learn and draw inspiration from elder cadres in carrying out their serious tasks. **AB**

	
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Ka Lucas: Student leader, Red fighter

The Southern Mindanao Regional Committee of the Communist Party of the Philippines and the entire revolutionary movement honored Rendell Ryan Cagula, known as Ka Lucas by the thousands of people he served in the countryside. Ka Lucas was among the Red fighters killed on November 4 in a clash with fascist troops of the 27th IB in Maasim, Sarangani. Killed with him in the gunbattle were Ka Payat, Ka Doming and Ja Jappie.

Ka Lucas, 23, was a well-known student leader in Southern Mindanao. He was born on February 24, 1991 to a middle class family. His consciousness about Philippine social conditions was raised when he became a student of Anthropology at the University of the Philippines (UP)-Mindanao.

He became active in campus politics. He was elected as college representative and eventually became the president of the university student council. He was also elected vice president of the *Katipunan ng mga Sangguniang Mag-aaral sa UP (KASAMA sa UP)*, the national alliance of student councils throughout the UP system. In addition, he was a member of the Pi Sigma Fraternity, Anak UP Min and Dugong Antro. He joined the League of Filipino Students and served as its regional spokesperson. He also became the regional coordinator of the Kabataan Partylist in Southern Mindanao.

Ka Lucas decided to join the New People's Army in December 2013 and was assigned to a unit in Far South Mindanao Region. There, the revolutionary forces recognized and

respected him for his leadership abilities, his mental acuity and decisiveness. He first trained as a medic and joined people's clinics launched by his unit. He and his unit performed their duties

of organizing the broad peasant masses in their area, providing them political education and participating in production.

Because of his demonstrated assiduousness and steadfastness, Ka Lucas was appointed as political officer of a platoon within Guerrilla Front 73 in less than a year. Organizing work was difficult in their area which they still had to recover, but Ka Lucas and his comrades persevered. To become more effective in his tasks in an area where the majority of the population were Lumad, he took the effort to learn up to four different dialects.

He tirelessly encouraged comrades to be firm in the face of the AFP's relentless combat operations and the series of encounters between their unit and the soldiers. Ka Lucas and three other Red fighters were



killed in action in one of these firefights with the enemy.

Ka Lucas' remains were brought to UP-Mindanao, where for the very first time, a Red fighter was honored within campus. Condolences and tributes to Ka Lucas poured in from his teachers, friends and fellow activists from the youth sector. His fellow student leaders from the council he had only recently left behind sent messages expressing their admiration.

Fellow activists recalled his life and struggle, along with those of other youth like him who decided to serve as Red fighters in the countryside. Among them were Rhaim Buanjug (Ka Jack), who died on September 22 from malaria complications and Recca Noelle Monte who was tortured and killed by men of the 56th IB in Lacub, Abra on September 4. **AB**

Sine Proletaryo remembers Ka Lucas

In January, Ka Lucas was assigned to assist a team from Sine Proletaryo conducting interviews with leaders and members of the Party and New People's Army in Far South Mindanao Region for the "Istatus: FSMR" and part of the "JMS: 55/75" projects. "Istatus" is a series of short videos featuring the current situation and advance of the revolutionary movement in the various regions while "JMS" was a production for the 75th birthday of Jose Maria Sison in February. It was Ka Lucas who was behind the camera in almost all of the footages for the "Istatus: FSMR" video that was released on February 16.

Although he had no formal training, Ka Lucas showed keen interest in working behind the camera. He learned fast and closely listened to instructions and reminders. He took very good care of the team's equipment—the camera, tripod and batteries. He usually arrived earlier than the Sine Proletaryo team during scheduled takes even if it was raining very hard and visibility was poor due to heavy fogging. He quickly adapted to the "guerrilla style" of filming and took good footages despite the inclement weather and the limited equipment.

He raced with Red fighters while taking footages of the war games. He climbed trees to get a good angle on shots featuring marching NPA guerrillas. He woke up before dawn to shoot Red fighters in their early morning exercises. The comrades noted how Ka Lucas had a very steady hand.

Aside from using the camera, Ka Lucas also closely listened to the interview given by NDFP-FSMR spokesperson Ka Efren Aksasato on the situation of the region and the revolutionary forces.

Ka Lucas didn't mind the fact that he was new to the task, particularly that of Sine Proletaryo's video work. His revolutionary enthusiasm showed in his seriousness in accomplishing the tasks assigned to him and in continually attaining knowledge and skills by asking questions and through persistent self-study.

These are the memories of Ka Lucas that left an indelible mark on the comrades in Sine Proletaryo.

AB

NPA seizes 23 firearms in Occidental Mindoro



Red fighters of the New People's Army (NPA) Lucio de Guzman Command seized 23 firearms, including 20 high-powered rifles in a successful raid on the Paluan, Occidental Mindoro municipal hall on November 7.

The rifles consisted of 13 M16s and seven M14s. The NPA also seized a shotgun, two pistols, ammunition and military equipment.

At least seven elements of the Public Safety Battalion and 408th Public Safety Maneuver Forces of the Philippine National Police and the Philippine Army 76th IB were killed and four others wounded. The Red fighters were able to make a safe retreat after the 20-minute raid.

This raid resulted in one of the biggest arms hauls this year. Another platoon of Red fighters could be armed with the weapons confiscated from the enemy.

As they retreated, the Red fighters took with them Paluan mayor Carl Michael Pangilinan and his municipal administrator in order to warn Pangilinan against continuing his involvement in, and coddling of, illegal loggers, illegal drug dealers and other syndicates operating in Paluan. Mayor Pangilinan is being protected by the fascist troops of the 76th IB and 408th PNP. He was released after about an hour.

The day on which the raid was conducted is a

historic one for the people of Southern Tagalog because they were also commemorating the lives and struggles of two heroic cadres of the Communist Party of the Philippines and the NPA—Ka Armando Teng and Ka Lucio de Guzman. They were among the highly esteemed pillars of the revolutionary movement who led in sowing the seeds and overseeing the spread of the people's revolutionary struggle in Mindoro island.

Meanwhile, extremely embarrassed authorities ordered the immediate dismissal of the chiefs of the Paluan police and the 76th IB. Despite the successful raid, the AFP insists on claiming that there are no longer any Red fighters in Mindoro and that the attacking guerrillas had come from other islands. AB

Military actions in Sorsogon, Aurora and Nueva Vizcaya

Three soldiers were killed and at least four wounded in separate gunbattles between the reactionary military and the New People's Army (NPA) in Sorsogon, Aurora and Nueva Vizcaya in October and November.

In Nueva Vizcaya, two soldiers were wounded after Red fighters noticed their presence and beat to the draw the military troopers who were in ambush position in Sitio Manial, Barangay Lublob, Alfonso Castañeda at around 5:45 p.m. on October 22.

In Aurora, two soldiers were killed and several others wounded in a clash between NPA guerrillas and a team of enemy forces in Barangay Galintuja, Maria Aurora on November 12. The NPA did not suffer any casualties.

Meanwhile, in Sorsogon, a soldier from the 31st IB aboard a tricycle was killed after resisting an NPA team that accosted him and another military element in a disarming operation in Barangay San Antonio, Barcelona at around 8 a.m. on November 16. The NPA operatives decided not to shoot it out with the other soldier in order to avoid possible civilian casualties and allowed the tricycle to leave.

A cal .45 pistol was seized from the dead trooper. AB

Yolanda survivors cry for Aquino's overthrow

Cries for justice by more than 40,000 Yolanda survivors echoed along with their urgent calls for the overthrow of Benigno Aquino III. On November 7 and 8, up to 22,000 people poured out into the streets of Tacloban City; 10,000 in Roxas City; 2,500 in Kalibo, Aklan; 1,500 in Iloilo City; 4,000 in Estancia, Iloilo; 1,000 in San Jose, Antique; and 300 in Bantayan, Cebu. They marched to commemorate the first anniversary of super typhoon Yolanda's onslaught and assail the Aquino regime's criminal negligence.

The Catholic Church likewise hailed the victims and survivors by holding masses at 4 p.m. in about 50,000 churches nationwide and simultaneously ringing the church bells in its 89 dioceses at 6 p.m.

In contrast, the Aquino government did not even show any sympathy or listen to the Yolanda survivors' legitimate grievances. Instead of addressing

the thousands of survivors who had gathered in Tacloban City on November 7, Aquino chose to go to Guiuan, Eastern Samar where he let out a barrage of criticisms against the Yolanda survivors before a handful of controlled applauders and fellow Liberal Party members.

This further angered the survivors, who branded Aquino as "useless to the Filipino peo-

ple" and called for his overthrow.

November 1 and 2. The week-long protest by the People Surge Alliance began with a visit to the mass graves of the Yolanda victims and remembering the missing. Conservative estimates place the number of killed at 7,000, with close to 2,000 missing and 16 million affected by Yolanda's fury in 171 cities and towns in 14 provinces and six regions of the Visayas and Southern Tagalog (Palawan).

November 4. The Women's International Solidarity Mission went to Tacloban City to investigate the true conditions of Yolanda victims and possible government violations of human rights in Leyte. Aside from the

killings and harassment of mass leaders, there have also been reports of growing prostitution and sex trafficking in Tacloban due to the Aquino government's criminal negligence.

November 5. At a human rights conference, Dr. Efleda Bautista, co-convenor and chair of the People Surge Alliance of Yolanda Survivors recounted their experiences in demanding justice for the victims.

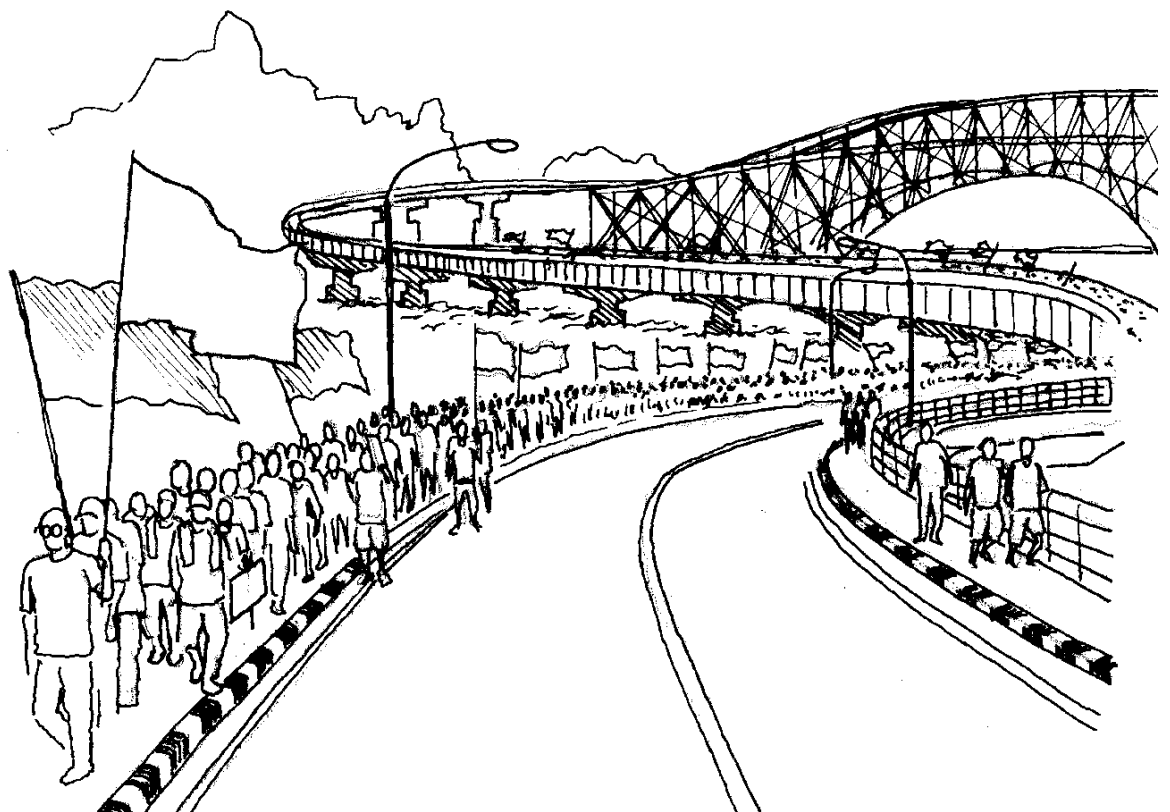
Bautista also assailed a report by DSWD Sec. Corazon "Dinky" Soliman claiming that all the Yolanda survivors living in tent cities and evacuation centers had already been transferred to temporary shelters. Many survivors still live in tents, especially in San Jose, one of the hardest hit districts of Tacloban City.

The Aquino regime's failure to provide permanent housing, sustainable livelihoods and other basic public services to the victims has been aggravated by widespread corruption, charged the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (BAYAN).

November 6. The National Conference of Disaster Victims was held in Tacloban City and attended by representatives from various regions in the Visayas, Mindanao and Manila. They formally established the Daluyong National Network of Survivors.

Morning of November 7. Aquino and his minions arrive in Guiuan, with leading newspapers, radio and television networks widely reporting on his tirades against his critics. Meanwhile, the mercenary media were silent on the demolition of tents sheltering Yolanda survivors in Guiuan before Aquino's arrival, and a police-military blockade against a hundred survivors who had planned on joining a march to Tacloban.

Afternoon of November 7. More than a hundred fishing boats held a fluvial protest parade. From Basey, Samar, the participants waved the People Surge banner as they sailed towards the UP Tacloban Garden. They then marched along San Juanico Bridge



which connects Samar and Leyte islands, and entered Tacloban, where they picketed the DSWD office and banged on the doors of Gov. Dominic Petilla's office at the provincial capitol. Petilla, a Liberal Party stalwart, is the brother of Energy Sec. Jericho Petilla and a son of Palo town mayor Remedios Petilla, a close Aquino ally.

November 8. By this time, the rallyists had ballooned to 22,000. At the end of their week-long protest, they burned a nine-foot tall effigy of Aquino, who was portrayed as a monster aboard a military tank. The effigy symbolized his absolute neglect of the victims and the militarization of communities affected by the calamity.

In Kalibo, BAYAN-Aklan led rallyists in assailing the government's failure to come to the aid of Yolanda survivors. They belied Aquino's boastful claims to providing ₱6 billion in livelihood assistance. In fact, the fund was not intended for the victims but to prepare the resort island of Boracay for the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Summit in 2015.

Meanwhile, in a rally at Roxas City, Bayan Muna Rep. Carlos Zarate announced that the Makabayan bloc in Congress had filed House Resolution 1638 calling for an investigation of Aquino minions Budget Sec. Butch Abad, DSWD Sec. Dinky Soliman, DILG Sec. Mar Roxas, DPWH Sec. Rogelio Singson, Defense Sec. Voltaire Gazmin and Presidential Assistant for Rehabilitation and Recovery Panfilo Lacson. Zarate said that these cabinet members misspent funds intended for the rehabilitation of areas affected by the supertyphoon, including Capiz which was the hardest hit after Tacloban. **AB**

Nurses clamor for jobs and higher wages

Nurses waged protest actions on October 17 and October 27 to demand higher wages for health workers and call for sufficient health services for the people.

The mass actions were led by the Justice for Nurses Coalition which comprises Nursing Bayan, Nurses 4 Change Movement and the Alliance of Health Workers (AHW). We Nurse Inc. and various unions in public hospitals also held protests.

The nurses held the regime accountable for its failure to comply with its responsibilities under the Nursing Act of 2002 and the Magna Carta of Public Health Workers.

The nurses complained that they were overworked and underpaid. Due to their low wages, nurses are unable to cope with the continually rising cost of living. Their monthly salaries usually amount to only ₱18,600 even as it takes almost ₱30,000 monthly for a family of six to live decently.

In a number of private hospitals, they only receive ₱12,000 a month. There are cases when their take-home pay is even less than ₱4,000 monthly. There are also widespread cases of nurses paying for the chance to work in hospitals as part of their "training." Worse, nurses sometimes come in as "volunteers" who work for free for as long as six months just to acquire the required certificate of experience for working overseas, or in hopes of being accepted as regular nurses after a few months.

Nurses are severely overworked, often being given as many as 50 patients to attend to. The optimum ratio is one nurse to 12 patients. At the National Center for Mental Health, each nurse is made to attend to

as many as 80-100 patients.

These conditions stand in contrast to the hundreds of thousands of unemployed nurses in the Philippines. There are currently an estimated 300,000 underemployed nurses and 200,000 unemployed nurses. Many registered nurses have been forced to take jobs that have nothing to do with their profession such as being call center agents.

There is a dire need for nurses in the country, but the government hires only a few of them. Worse, most of the government nurses do not become regular employees and thus, do not enjoy job security. All they receive is contractual employment without adequate wages and benefits. Because of wide-

spread contractualization, nurses are forced to go abroad or take other jobs.

Meanwhile, a protest action was launched on October 28 to jumpstart a new campaign for a ₱16,000 national minimum wage. Dubbed "all workers' unity," the campaign is being spearheaded by four major organizations—the Kilusang Mayo Uno, the Confederation for the Unity, Recognition and Advancement of Government Employees, the Alliance of Concerned Teachers (ACT) and the AHW.

Merging the force of workers and employees is aimed at further strengthening their struggle for significant wage and salary hikes and the restoration of a national minimum wage. The implementation of a minimum wage has been disregarded since the enforcement of the Wage Rationalization Law of 1989 and other similar measures. **AB**

Teachers hold sit-down strike for higher pay

Public school teachers launched a coordinated protest on November 14 to demand an increase in their monthly salaries from ₱18,549 to ₱25,000. They also pushed for raising the monthly salaries for non-teaching personnel from ₱9,000 to ₱15,000. The protest was led by the Alliance of Concerned Teachers (ACT) against the Aquino regime's widespread negligence of the education sector and the continuing pork barrel system.

The Congress-approved national budget for 2015 does not provide for higher salaries for public school teachers. ACT is pushing for their demand to be acted upon favorably before the Senate passes the budget and Aquino signs it into law. Government employees are entitled to a legally-mandated salary increase every three years. But the government has not granted a pay hike since 2009.

Worse, the small incentive pay received by government workers, such as the ₱10,000-Performance Enhancement Incentive (PEI) has been slashed by half, and the ₱2,000-Performance Incentive Bonus abolished. Instead, the government has instituted

the Result-Based Performance Management System (RPMS) which has added to the teachers' work load since it requires them to submit a daily report on their accomplishments. Any bonuses received will be based on an evaluation.

ACT opposes this scheme because it fosters a climate of competition instead of cooperation among teachers. Among the thousands of teachers who joined the protest were members of the Quezon City Public School Teachers Association (QCPSTA), Manila Public School Teachers Association (MPSTA), Mandaluyong and Makati public schools and ACT chapters in Bacolod, Davao, Southern Tagalog and Eastern Visayas.

Aside from the sit-down strike, ACT-QC likewise rallied in front of the Quezon City Hall to assail the delay in their allowances for the past four months—the result of transferring their local allowance account from Land Bank to BPI Globe Banko. They also decried the additional service fees being charged by BPI, which have been cutting into their

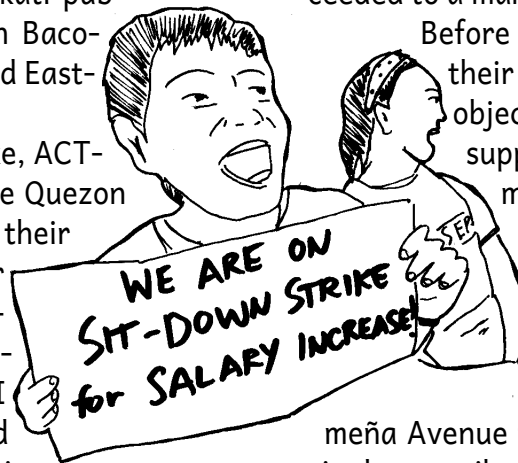
salaries.

During the sit-down strike, the protesters went to their workplaces but refused to perform their jobs. No regular classes were held despite the presence of students. In Manila, the sit-down strike came in the form of teachers providing lessons on government corruption and its effect on the educational system, in place of the regular subject matter. Thus, the students became part of the protest activities.

Meanwhile, in Bacolod City, the teachers proceeded to a march-rally after their sit-down strike.

Before the protest, ACT-Bacolod wrote their students' parents to explain the objective of their protest and ask their support for the teachers' pay hike demand. More than 50% of teachers in Bacolod receive a net income of up to ₱5,000 only because of several deductions.

In Cebu City, teachers wore black and lit candles at Fuente Osmeña Avenue to express their solidarity with the sit-down strike. In Cagayan de Oro, teachers wore black armbands.



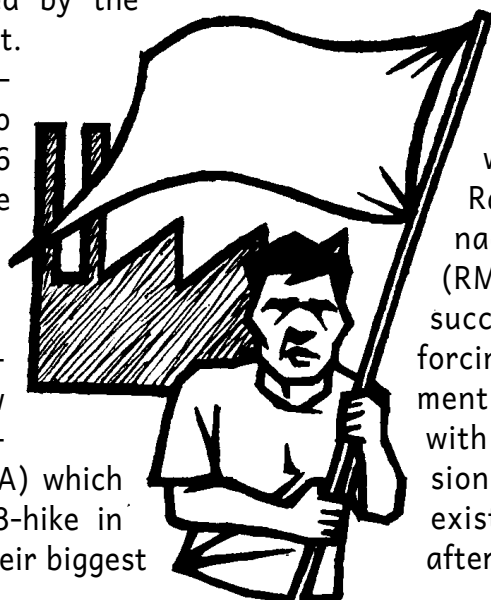
Workers of RMN-Davao and Cenapro-Cebu win strikes

Workers successfully concluded two strikes in Cebu and Davao this November.

The Cenapro Chemicals Employees Association-Alliance of Nationalist and Genuine Labor Organizations-KMU (CCEA-ANGLO-KMU) won their 22-day strike against the forced overtime being imposed by the factory management.

The company required its workers to work for up to 16 hours a day. Aside from doing away with this practice, the workers also succeeded in negotiating for a new Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) which provides for a ₱48-hike in their daily wage, their biggest

pay increase in 15 years. They likewise won other benefits and put a stop to management's attempts to terminate their union leaders. Cenapro Chemicals Corporation is located at Mandae, Cebu.



Meanwhile, workers of Radio Mindanao Network (RMN) in Davao succeeded in forcing management to comply with the provisions of their existing CBA after a strike led

by the RMN Davao Employees Union-National Federation of Labor Unions-Kilusang Mayo Uno that began on October 2.

Among the CBA's provisions is the regularization of the company's workers. An attempt to bust the union was likewise foiled.

In a related development, workers hailed a court victory by three cameramen who filed suit against GMA Network (Channel 7) to compel the company to recognize them as regular employees of the network. Contrary to GMA's treatment of them as contractuales, the court cited the nature of the cameramen's work and their length of service to the company as bases for recognizing their regular employee status.

Progressives mark 10th anniversary of Hacienda Luisita Massacre

Progressive organizations of farmers, students and other sectors commemorated the tenth year of the Hacienda Luisita Massacre, holding a caravan from Mendiola, Manila to Angeles City on November 15. They then proceeded to Tarlac City where they were warmly welcomed by farmers.

The day after, up to 60 vehicles joined the caravan. The protesters rallied in front of the Northern Luzon Command (Nolcom) headquarters which is located right in front of the hacienda, before proceeding to the Central Azucarera de Tarlac (CAT) gates where the massacre that claimed the lives of seven farm workers and injured more than 30 others occurred. There, they lit candles and held a program in memory of the hacienda martyrs.

The massacre took place when then CAT administrator and congressman Benigno Aquino III ordered Nolcom forces positioned behind the CAT gates to open fire on striking workers. Gen. Ricardo Visaya, who then headed the Philippine Army unit responsible for the massacre, now heads the

AFP Southern Luzon Command.

According to the Alyansa ng mga Manggagawang Bukid sa Asyenda Luisita (AMBALA), the relatives of the massacre victims have yet to attain the justice they have long been seeking. After the court dismissed the case filed against the Aquinos and Cojuangcos in 2005, injustice continued to plague the residents of HLI.

More acts of violence have been perpetrated since the massacre, including the killings of mass leaders and supporters of the farm workers such as Ricardo Ramos, Tirso Cruz, Victor "Tatang Ben" Concepcion, Florante Collante, Councilor Abel Ladera, Fr. William Tadena and Bishop Alberto Ramento. This is on top of the trumped-up cases against the current leaders and the various maneuvers to prevent the distribution of the land to the rightful beneficiaries.

AMBALA asserted that it would continue to fight for justice along with calling for the distribution of the land to the hacienda farmers and militantly advancing genuine land reform. **AB**

32 minorities fighting Panay megadam charged with rebellion

In an attempt to intimidate Tumanduk tribespeople opposed to the Jalaur Dam Project, 32 members of TUMANDUK (Tumanduk nga Mangu nguma nga Nagapangapin sang Duta kag Kabuhi) were slapped with trumped-up rebellion charges in the first week of November.

TUMANDUK is an alliance of 17 minority communities in Tapaz and Jamindan, Capiz and Calinog, Iloilo strongly opposed to the ₱11.2-billion Jalaur River Multipurpose Project II (JRMPII). The project, which is currently being built at the headwaters of the Jalaur River in Calinog is targeted for completion in 2016.

The rebellion case filed at the Capiz Provincial Prosecutor's Office by Insp. Leomindo Tayopon, acting Tapaz police chief, alleges that the accused Tumanduk minorities were involved in a clash between the Philippine Army and the New People's Army (NPA) in Barangay Nayawan in Tapaz town on October 7, 2013.

"I did not have anything to do with that clash," said Nelson Gimong, one of the accused and a resident of Barangay Nayawan. "And why is the case being filed now that opposition to the dam is growing?"

Despite the rebellion case they are facing, the Tumanduk remain determined to oppose

the JRMPII project. The project, which comprises three dams, a 6.6-megawatt hydro-power plant and an 81-kilometer canal going to Calinog will surely submerge their villages and deprive the Tumanduk of their livelihoods once it is completed. They added that linking them to the NPA and filing a rebellion case against them is a desperate move by the Aquino government against those opposed to the JRMPII.

The JRMPII is one of Senate Pres. Franklin Drilon's pet projects and is being funded by monies sourced from the Priority Development Assistance Fund (PDAF), Disbursement Acceleration Program (DAP) and loans incurred by the Aquino regime from the South Korean government-owned Export-Import Bank. **AB**

Military harasses student, former ICR guerrilla

The Antonio Licawen Command (ALC) of the New People's Army in the Ilocos-Cordillera Region (ICR) condemned the illegal arrest by the AFP and PNP of a student and a former NPA member in the region.

On September 23, joint forces of the 501st IBde and Philippine National Police arrested Malvarose Logang-a, a student at the Mountain Province Polytechnic State College. He was accused of being an NPA member and slapped with a trumped-up case stemming from an NPA mabush in Tadian, Mountain Province last year and another NPA ambush at Bes-sang Pass, Ilocos Sur in 2005. According to the ALC, Logang-a has never been an NPA member and his arrest is a mark of the AFP's desperation in the area.

On October 3, Samuel Compalas was likewise illegally arrested in Salcedo, Ilocos Sur and slapped with charges similar to Logang-a's. Compalas had bolted the NPA as far back as 2006. He had been arrested and charged in 2009 but because the accusations against him were baseless, the court dismissed

the cases that had been filed against him.

In related news, up to 1,000 residents of Bauko and Bontoc, Mountain Province rallied on November 12 to condemn the death of Stephen Galida, a student at the Mountain Province Polytechnic State College while in the custody of PNP-Mountain Province. Galida died on November 5 after jumping from a moving police vehicle. According to the police report, Galida voluntarily went with the PNP after he was picked up allegedly for disturbing the peace and violating curfew. Witnesses, however, said that the police beat up Galida and forced him into their vehicle. Soon after, Galida jumped out of the vehicle.

Meanwhile, in Camarines Norte, suspected members of a military death squad attempted to abduct CONDOR provincial coordinator Tony Salvador in Daet on November 14. CONDOR is a progressive transport organization affiliated with PISTON. Two men tried to force Salvador into a waiting van, but he was able to escape. The assailants quickly entered the van and sped off after failing to seize their target.

AFP military operations disrupt civilians' lives in Sultan Kudarat and Aurora-Nueva Vizcaya

MILITARY operations currently being conducted in Sultan Kudarat and the Aurora-Nueva Vizcaya border are massively dislocating civilians.

In Sultan Kudarat, 360 families or 2,000 residents of Barangay Nate in Sen. Ninoy Aquino town fled their communities on November 13 after the 33rd IB began combat operations against the New People's Army (NPA). The evacuees are living temporarily at the Nate barangay hall and elementary school.

Before the evacuation, fighting erupted between the 33rd IB and the NPA in Barangay Nate on November 8. According to initial reports, a soldier was allegedly wounded and an NPA guerrilla was killed in the firefight.

Meanwhile, the military has been preventing residents of Alfonso Castañeda, Nueva Vizcaya and the mountainous villages of Maria Aurora, Aurora from attending to their swidden farms and animal traps and visiting their hunting grounds, thus seriously affecting their livelihoods and security. The restrictions are a consequence of a massive military operation in villages along the two provinces' boundary. The 3rd IB, 56th IB, Headquarters Service Company of the 703rd Infantry Brigade, the 73rd Division Reconnaissance Company, K9 units and Special Forces elements have been scouring the area since clashes between the military and an NPA unit occurred on October 22 and November 12. (*see related article*)

Harassment of Lumad schools lambasted

THE Save our Schools (SOS) Network rallied on November 10 in front of Camp Aguinaldo in Quezon City to assail the 68th IB's refusal to pull out of a Manobo tribal community in Nasilaban, Palma Gil, Talaingod, Davao del Norte, contrary to an earlier agreement between the military and the minorities.

Instead of moving away from civilian centers, the soldiers encamped at a village hall right in the middle of the community. Residents use the hall for meetings. The rallyists condemned the terror being sowed by the soldiers in the community. In one instance, the military forced residents to sign a document denying that a strafing incident had occurred in Nasilaban after a tribal leader had complained about it.

With the rallyists were 13 Manobo children from various schools who traveled from Davao to expose the AFP's intense militarization of their communities. The soldiers' presence has severely disrupted their communities, prompting even the Department of Education in Region 12 to call for the immediate pullout of AFP troops from Lumad schools and communities.

Continuing injustice in Maguindanao Massacre slammed

FAMILIES, supporters and media workers gathered in Quezon City on November 15 to mark the fifth anniversary of the Maguindanao Massacre.

The participants condemned not only the Aquino regime's failure to hold to account the massacre perpetrators but also its snail-paced handling of the case which has enabled the accused to terrorize witnesses and make counter-maneuvers.

Protest actions will be held on November 21 and 23 to commemorate the massacre, which has been dubbed the bloodiest single incident of media killing both in the Philippines and worldwide. Thirty-two out of the 58 victims of the massacre that occurred on November 23, 2009 in Ampatuan, Maguindanao were media workers.

Media killings go on unabated in the Philippines. At least 22 media workers have been killed under the Aquino regime for work-related reasons. Up to 140 journalists have been killed in the Philippines since 1986.

Journalists who expose crimes or anomalies involving local fascist warlords or despotic politicians often become targets of violence. Because of the latter's control over the police and military, government officials and courts, media violence continues with impunity.

Anakbayan assails massacre of students in Mexico

ANAKBAYAN activists in the US and the Philippines expressed solidarity with their fellow students in Mexico by condemning the abduction and killing of 43 students in Ayotzinapa-Guerrero in Mexico on September 23.

The 43 abductees came from a college in Ayotzinapa and were on their way to Iguala, Guerrero to launch a protest against Mexican government anomalies. They were blocked by the police en route, illegally detained and given to members of the Guerreros Unidos criminal syndicate who perpetrated the massacre. Their bodies have not been found to date.

According to Anakbayan-US and the Northern California Committee in Support of Ayotzinapa, the Mexican government has had a long history of killings, abductions and general brutality against students in Ayotzinapa. Among the Mexican government's serious human rights violations were the brutal beating by police of 26 students in 2013 and the shooting of three students at a protest in 2011.

Protests in Europe

Residents of various European countries have been launching protest actions non-stop against their governments' austerity measures in the face of a new economic recession.

Up to 32,000 people rallied in various towns around Greece on November 17 to mark the anniversary of a historic student strike in 1973 against the military junta that once ruled the country as well as assail reductions in social expenditures being implemented by the government to comply with conditions set by foreign banks in exchange for loans. In Athens, the police

used tear gas to disperse an 18,000-strong rally after the protesters gathered in front of the US Embassy.

Meanwhile, thousands of rallyists marched in 20 Italian cities on November 14 to oppose austerity measures being enforced by Matteo Renzi's government. Simultaneously, public and private sector workers launched a day-long general strike. In Rome, the country's capital, demonstrators assailed the "politics of liberalism and austerity" and demanded pension hikes, more funds and investments in public services and

a guaranteed minimum wage.

Earlier, 120,000 workers and students waged a march-rally in Brussels, Belgium on November 7 to denounce plans by the newly elected government to raise the retirement age, freeze wages and reduce health and social security benefits.

A four-day strike (November 7 to 10) by train drivers likewise erupted in Germany. It was the longest strike in German history, affecting more than two million passengers. The 20,000-member GDL Union demanded a 5% wage hike and a 37-hour reduction in their work week. A day-long workers' strike had also been launched in October. **AB**