

Editorial

## Advance the people's democratic revolution under the Duterte regime

**T**he rise of Davao City Mayor Rodrigo Duterte as new chief of the reactionary state sets forth new challenges and set of tasks.

While the Party and revolutionary forces are aware that the basic nature of the reactionary state remains, they are also keen on particularities of the incoming Duterte regime and the advantageous situation it engenders for the promotion of the people's interest through advancing the people's democratic revolution.

Duterte's openness to working with the CPP and NDFP must be reciprocated to advance the interests and aspirations of the people. The Party with the entire revolutionary movement is open to forging an alliance with the Duterte regime through peace negotiations on the basis of principles of national sovereignty and social justice.

Within the frame of peace negotiations, we must advance the struggle to uphold human rights, including the release of political prisoners and NDFP peace consultants. Assert the struggle of the people to end the Oplan Bayanihan war of suppression against the people, and oppose whatever similar counter-insurgency campaign the

AFP will launch. On the other hand, in order to fully support and accelerate peace negotiations, the Party is ready to consider proposals for mutual ceasefire during the period of negotiations.

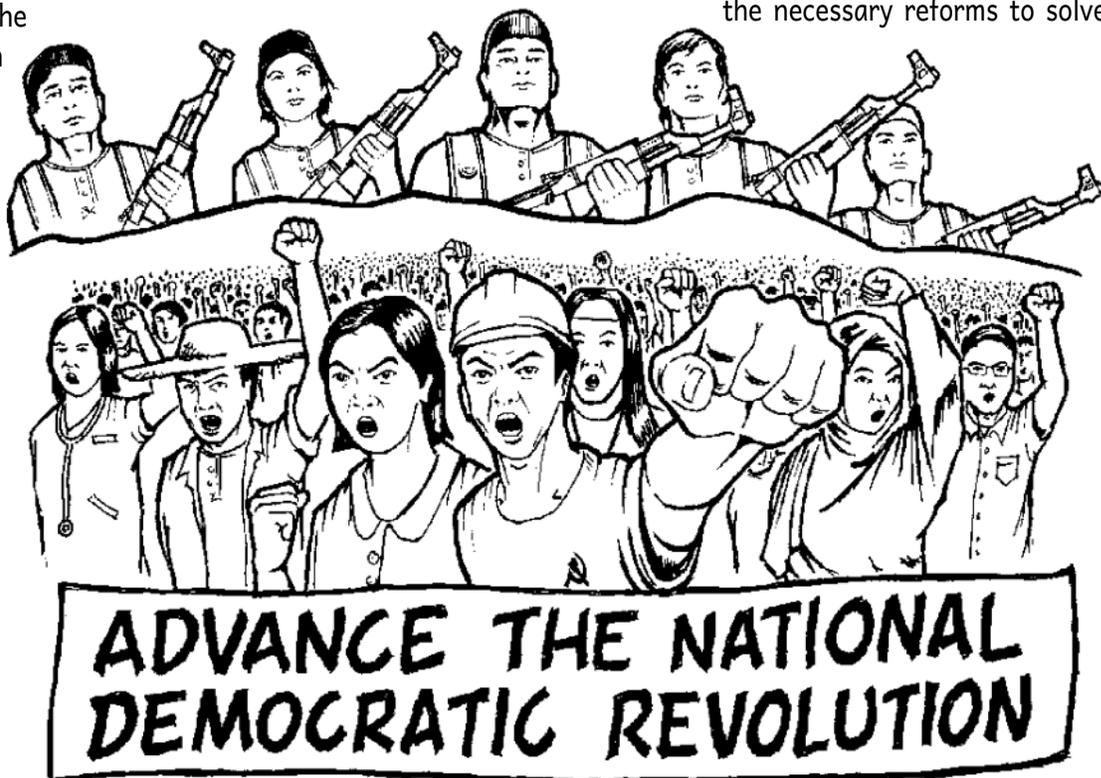
The people must be mobilized to support the clamor for a just and lasting peace. Further promote the NDFP's 12-point program and generate people's broad support for it.

Peace negotiation is a field for struggle with the ruling classes. The negotiations will bear fruit for the people if accompanied by workers

marching in their thousands to demand jobs through national industrialization, higher wages, a national minimum wage and an end to contractualization and other flexible-labor policies.

Hundreds of thousands of peasants must also be mobilized so that peace talks may serve as a platform to assert genuine land reform as key link in attaining social justice and rural peace.

Gather broad support for the NDFP program among the student-youth, women, academics and experts, church people, rank-and-file employees, migrant workers and their families, urban poor and the jobless and mobilize them to assert the necessary reforms to solve



the questions at the root of the current civil war in the country.

The success of peace negotiations rests on how much the Duterte regime is willing to stand by its promises to release NDFP consultants and all political prisoners, and earlier declarations of being a "socialist" and a "Leftist president."

This early, military officials, big business and counterrevolutionary social democrats are opposing plans to release political prisoners, as well as Duterte's plan to give four cabinet positions to representatives or endorsees of the CPP.

Expect intense struggles in talks

over socio-economic questions. Based on the earlier declarations by Duterte's economic officials, it would appear that there are no plans to change the current oppressive neoliberal regime.

We must intensify the promotion in the mass media, social media, in campuses and other fields of propaganda of the socio-economic program being advanced by the national democratic movement against the neoliberal policies implemented by the reactionary state over the past three decades and a half.

We must expose and oppose the neoliberal policies that favor the

unimpeded plunder by foreign big capitalists of the country's cheap labor and natural resources. Also, we must expose how these hinder economic development and allow private business to accumulate large profits to the detriment of the people.

In conjunction, we must support Duterte's anti-US aspect. Let us amplify the call to abrogate the unequal military treaties such as the EDCA, VFA and MDT; and reject the counterinsurgency US doctrine that aims to preserve the system which they dominate.

We can also support efforts by the Duterte regime to strengthen friendly relations with China and pursue peaceful resolution of the South China Sea disputes consistent with defending Philippine sovereignty. In line with this, we must demand an end to US and China saber-rattling and pursue the reduction of military presence of both sides in Philippine territory.

In the face of the changing situation under the Duterte regime, we must firmly unite the Party and all revolutionary forces concerning the potentials and limitations that the situation provides for advancing the revolutionary movement.

Firmly take hold of the tasks that should be advanced in the different fields of struggle. Ensure that all Party branches and mass organizations discuss the central leadership's statements and directives concerning the new situation under the Duterte regime.

While we assiduously confront the tactical situation to advance the urgent demands of the people, we also pay attention to the strategic questions.

We must continue to advance the tasks to achieve greater expansion, strengthening and consolidation of the Party in order to lead the increasing number of tasks for advancing the people's democratic revolution. AB



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# Preparations for peace negotiations underway

The Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) and the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) welcome Davao City Mayor Rodrigo Duterte's openness to pursue GRP-NDFP peace negotiations when he assumes office as the country's new president.

NDFP Negotiating Panel Chairperson Luis Jalandoni regarded Duterte's declaration that he will release political prisoners in order to boost peace negotiations as a positive step. Of the 543 political prisoners, 88 are of advanced age and sickly, while 18 are consultants for the peace negotiations. The consultants' arrests violate previous agreements and their prolonged imprisonment is unjust. Most, if not all of the political detainees are charged with trumped-up criminal cases.

Silvestre Bello III, the Duterte regime's incoming chief negotiator for the talks, said that the next government will uphold all previous agreements between the GRP and the NDFP. Regarding this, Jalandoni said that previous administrations did not have the political will to implement the agreements forged since the time of Fidel Ramos.

Meanwhile, NDFP Chief Political Consultant Prof. Jose Maria Sison

expressed concern

over attempts by some anti-communists like Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV, incoming Sen. Panfilo Lacson and Chito Gascon of the Commission on Human Rights to sabotage the peace negotiations. Relatedly, Prof. Sison said that he is willing to return to the Philippines if Duterte effects the release of political prisoners, and if there is an agreement on bilateral ceasefire, cooperation and acceleration of the peace negotiations in order to resolve the roots of the civil war. Prof. Sison also asks that Duterte keep his word that he will visit the former in The Netherlands.

Last May 17, NDFP peace panel representative Fidel Agcaoili met with Duterte's group in Davao City to discuss procedures for peace negotiations. According to him, comprehensive discussions must be held with regards to a mutual



ceasefire and agreements on socio-economic and political reforms. The NDFP has already drafted a detailed Comprehensive Agreement on Socio-Economic Reforms. This was supposed to be the talks' next agenda, had the Aquino regime pushed through with the peace process. The NDFP is likewise willing to "simultaneously" forge the talks' sequential agenda in order to accelerate the attainment of a final peace agreement.

In a statement, the CPP said that the peace negotiation is an excellent opportunity to discuss socio-economic issues that confront the people. Duterte is urged to engage in discussions with workers, peasants and other mass-based organizations to enable him to listen to their grievances and see the urgent need to address their situation with substantial changes in policy.

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## NDF-Mindanao's challenge to Duterte

THE IMMEDIATE cessation of militarization in Mindanao is one of the pressing challenges to the would-be president's leadership. This was the substance of the statement issued by Ka Oris, spokesperson of NDF-Mindanao on May 13.

The spokesperson explained that the election of Rodrigo Duterte as president opens opportunities for the people's demands and aspirations in Mindanao. In many instances, Duterte stood on the side of the people, in

such issues as forced evacuation, US intervention in Davao City, the defence of the urban poor, environmental issues, illegal drugs, the release of Prisoners of War (POW) and others.

According to Ka Oris, "particularly in Mindanao, the immediate challenge to Digong's... leadership is how to immediately stop the militarization of Mindanao to normalize the economic, social and cultural life of the Lumad, Moro and the non-Moro people; the safe and

*"challenge....," to be continued on page 4*

# CPP welcomes offer of cabinet positions

President-elect Rodrigo Duterte publicly offered four cabinet positions to the Communist Party of the Philippines last May 16. These were the secretary posts of the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR), and Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). Duterte is said to base two of these, the DAR and DENR, in Mindanao.

The CPP welcomes Duterte's offer of these cabinet positions. This is an acknowledgement of the strength and political standing of the CPP and revolutionary forces, its effective representation of the interests of workers, peasants, minorities and the broad masses as well as its work in protecting the environment.

However, the CPP elaborated that the revolutionary forces are more concerned with the necessary changes in the policies and programs that govern these departments and the entire government. These include prohibiting contractualization, promoting unions, establishing a national wage system and substantially raising wages, genuine land reform based on social justice, prohibiting

plantations from grabbing and monopolizing lands, and ending the presence of US troops in the Philippines. A U-turn in the neoliberal policies of the past three decades must be carried out.

An alliance or coalition between the Duterte regime and the CPP and revolutionary forces can be realized on the basis of principles such as national sovereignty and social justice, which are at the core of the current armed conflict. This includes, among others, the need for genuine land reform, industrialization and economic development, jobs, ending US troop presence and many others.

The CPP anticipates that the public offer will be followed through with a more thorough discussion of policies through peace negotiations with the NDFP.

On May 18, Luis Jalandoni, chief negotiator of the NDFP, responded to Duterte's offer by saying the revolutionary movement will give a short list of recommendees to the cabinet. They don't necessarily have to come from the CPP, he said. Instead, they may come from the legal national democratic organizations. No member of the New People's Army will be assigned to the cabinet, Jalandoni added, until a final political agreement regarding disposition of revolutionary forces is attained, and when it will be possible to establish a coalition government.

Jose Maria Sison, senior political consultant of the NDFP, also announced that he will not accept any cabinet position because he has plenty of work related to the peace negotiations.

Meanwhile, Corazon Soliman of the DSWD expressed fears that the 4Ps will be done away with if the CPP sits in the department. Expectedly, big business immediately objected to Duterte's offer of the DOLE post to the CPP. **AB**

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*"challenge....," from page 3*

immediate return of the thousands of victims of forced evacuation to their homes in Davao region, Caraga region, Bukidnon, North Cotabato, in Moro areas and other parts of Mindanao; the immediate re-opening of schools forcibly closed and putting a stop to the harassment of schools; the end to extra-judicial killings and other forms of human rights violations perpetrated by the military and paramilitary units organized by the AFP alongside the delivery of justice to all the victims; the immediate disbandment of the paramilitary forces; an end to the rampant proliferation of drug syndicates in the rest of Mindanao; immediate food aid to the peasant masses affected by the prolonged drought; the release of political prisoners, especially the many

innocent civilians detained or sentenced on the basis of trumped-up cases, and other such issues."

Ka Oris also reiterated the NDFP's demands on the national level, including the problems of LRT and traffic, illegal drugs, criminality and the call for the resumption of the peace talks, the implementation of genuine land reform and national industrialization, the reversal of neoliberal policies, and pursuit of an independent foreign policy regarding EDCA and China.

On the other hand, NDF-Mindanao sees the need to further strengthen the broadest possible mass movement in Mindanao and the whole country to push Duterte's action on these concerns, giving counterweight in the face of reactionary counter pressures to the new president. **AB**

# NPA confiscates 9 firearms

Red fighters confiscated nine firearms in Negros, Agusan del Sur and Misamis Oriental this May. Successful tactical offensives were also launched in Panay and Bicol.

**Negros.** Three M-16 rifles were seized from an ambush by the NPA-Northern Negros (Roselyn Pelle Command) against enemy troops from Alpha Coy, 62nd IB. The ambush was launched last May 14 at 6:45 a.m. in Sitio (sub-village) Carbon, Barangay San Isidro, Toboso.

According to Ka Cecil Estrella of the NPA-Northern Negros, the ambush serves as the Red army's response to the request of the residents in the area to punish the 62nd IB for its human rights violations. Killed were Pfc. Teddie Alcallaga, Pfc. Reggie Taleon, and Pfc. Ramel Perasol, while Cpl. Rosevil Villacampa and Pfc. Jethro Niervo were wounded. Also seized were two ammunition pouches and several rounds for M-16.

Ka Cecil also said that prior to this, the RPC killed Cpl. Nelson Mariano, an intelligence officer of the 62nd IB, in a partisan operation last May 1 in the same village.

**Panay.** Two Philippine Army-CAFGU detachments in Tapaz, Capiz were attacked by the NPA-Central Panay (Jose Percival Estocada Command) last May 4 and 5. According to the NPA-Central Panay, the said detachments are part of the proposed Pan-ay River megadam

project's security forces.

The first tactical offensive was carried out against the enemy detachment in Barangay Abangay at around 8 p.m. last May 4. The following day at 4 a.m., the second attack targetted the enemy detachment in the nearby village of Daan Sur.

Meanwhile, the NPA-Central Panay had earlier carried out a harassment operation against the detachment of the RPSB6 last April 18 in Barangay Agcalaga, Calinog, Iloilo. Also on April 21, Red fighters set off a command-detonated explosive targetting a 15-man operating troop from the 31st Division Reconnaissance Company. The 31st DRC sustained no less than five casualties.

**Agusan del Sur.** Red fighters from the Conrado Heredia Command of the NPA-Southern Mindanao Region confiscated an M4 rifle and a .45 calibre pistol from a despotic official of the reactionary government last May 4. According to Ka Roel Agustin II, spokesperson of the Comval Davao East Coast Subregional Operational Command, the raid was carried out at 6 a.m. at the residence of Raul Granada, village chief of Barangay Cuevas, Trento, Agusan del Sur. Granada misuses his firearms to terrify residents and abuse his authority. He also

consented to the fascist 67th IB and other AFP units' violation of the rights of peasants in the village. Simultaneously, another unit of the NPA-CHC killed CAFGU member Napoleon Cortes after he resisted arrest at a highway checkpoint in Barangay Sta. Maria. Cortes is facing charges of drug trafficking and is an active intelligence agent of the AFP.

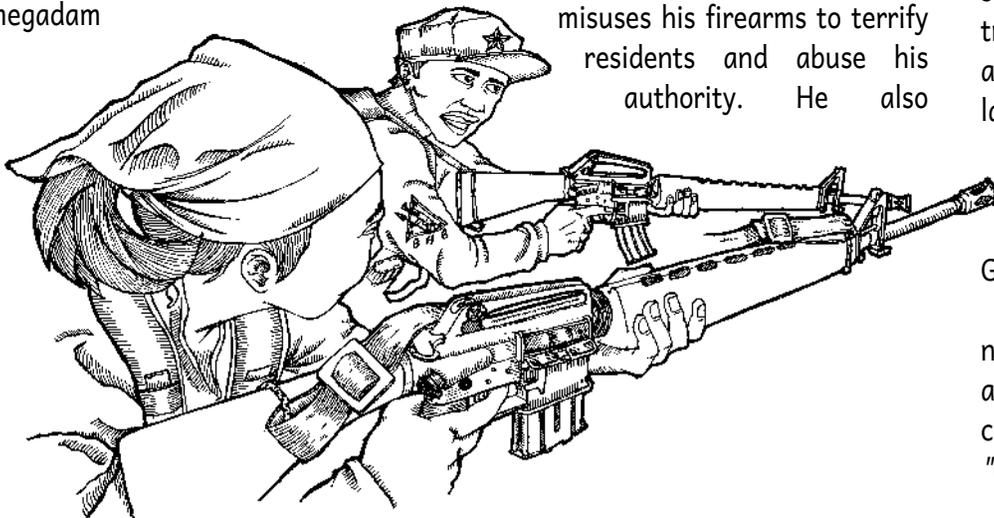
**Bicol.** Two officers of the 203rd IBde were wounded after the NPA-Sorsogon (Celso Minguez Command) set off a command-detonated explosive against the soldiers' KM-450 truck in Barangay Pangi, Matnog, Sorsogon last May 9 at 3:35 p.m.. The casualties were identified as 2nd Lt. Ariel Cayton and Sgt. Joventico Serafica.

**Misamis Oriental.** Two AR-15 rifles, and two pistols of .45 and .40 calibre were confiscated by the NPA-North Central Mindanao Region after Red fighters meted out the death penalty on Ret. SPO4 Francisco Baguiz last May 16 at 10 a.m. in Sitio Kidahon, Barangay Malinao, Gingoog City.

Also seized by the NPA were 14 magazines and two handheld radios.

Ka Allan Juanito of the NPA-NCMR Regional Operations Command said that Baguiz was punished after the People's Court sentenced him for his murder of tribal leaders and residents who are defending their ancestral lands. He is also culpable of grave cases of landgrabbing against Lumads and peasants in Syoan, Malinao and other areas of Gingoog City.

Also, he misrepresents the name of the NPA in his extortion activities, and organized the counter-revolutionary cult "Gintong Araw."



# The neoliberal policy regime

In the advent of Davao City Mayor Rodrigo Duterte's election to the presidency, it is urgent to study the initial economic plan that has been put forward by his advisers. Contrary to his promise that "change is coming," the plan has yet to offer something new and is a close copy of the programs implemented by the hated US-Aquino regime and its imperialist masters. In fact, JP Morgan, one of the biggest imperialist institutions of finance speculators, commended the plan as a "continuation" of past pro-foreign policies.

National-democratic organizations, as well as the Ibon Foundation, criticized what is shaping as a pro-imperialist, elitist and same-as-Aquino's economic plan. They took notice that pro-US technocrats comprise his economic team and that Duterte said that the Philippines "developed" under Aquino.

Duterte's economic program includes the continuance of the Public-Private Partnership program, charter change to do away with obstacles to the free flow of foreign capital and the expansion of the deceptive and counterrevolutionary conditional cash transfer. These programs are framed under the obsolete and bankrupt theory of neoliberalism which has inflicted hardships on the Filipino people for more than 30 years.

## Neoliberal policies

Primary neoliberal policies include liberalization, deregulation, privatization and denationalization. These are imposed mainly to break down barriers to profit accumulation of foreign monopoly capitalists and their local comprador bourgeois partners, and at the same time, overcome the worsening crisis of the world capitalist system. To give total freedom to big capitalists, state and national regulations are removed. These policies wreaked great havoc to national economies of

backward semicolonial and semifeudal nations. The working class and ordinary citizens bear the cost.

Under trade and finance liberalization, barriers to the entry of surplus capital and products from capitalist centers to backward countries are removed. In exchange, foreign capital, mostly portfolio, is poured in to temporarily boost the economy. Trade liberalization is implemented through the lowering of import tariffs, including those of local products from agriculture and food production. In finance, laws which restrict foreign investments are removed and export-processing zones where foreign companies enjoy full incentives and low or zero taxes are constructed.

Under privatization, state properties and services are auctioned wholesale, under the pretext that capitalists can run them "more efficiently." In truth, services are transformed into commodities to be sold to the people under privatization. The state's responsibility to ensure services is

turned over to private companies whose sole objective is to increase profits. The people are saddled with increasing fees, toll, tuition and the like. "User pays" is neoliberalism's mantra. Private companies do not have social responsibilities and operate without regulation since they are outside state control. Public safety is compromised due to cost-cutting and other means to increase profits. Public markets, education, public transport, health facilities such as hospitals, defense and security, infrastructure, utilities like electricity and water, and even electoral machineries, are among those being privatized.

Under investment and market deregulation, costs of commodities and services, including labor, are left to capitalist-controlled markets. State regulations on investment regarding the environment, workers' safety and health are relaxed, if not abolished. Existing laws governing labor are repealed to give way to flexible employment schemes such as contractualization and minimum wages are voided.

Under denationalization, foreign investors are given increasing rights to sections of the economy previously restricted to Filipinos. Laws restricting foreign investment in all economic



aspects are removed and they are given the right to fully repatriate profits to their respective countries.

### **Implementing the neoliberal policy regime in the Philippines**

Neoliberal policies were first implemented in the Philippines in the 1980s under the Marcos dictatorship. The International Monetary Fund and World Bank ordered import liberalization in exchange for fresh loans. Marcos implemented the Tariff Reduction Program I (TRP I) in 1981 to lower tariffs (import taxes) from 100% to 10-50%.

Enacting neoliberal policies gained momentum during the Corazon Aquino (1986-1992) and Fidel Ramos (1992-1998) regimes. During this time, import tariffs were almost completely abolished. Investment regulations were also abolished. State enterprises were privatized one after the other and big foreign investors and local capitalists were allowed in banking, oil, water, electricity, telecommunications and other relevant economic sectors.

When the Ramos regime ended in 1998, the neocolonial state had almost completed aligning its laws, policies and orders to the

neoliberalist order. The succeeding Estrada, Arroyo and Aquino regimes opened the remaining economic sectors which were not under complete control of foreign and local capitalists. In line with US dictates, the succeeding regimes attempted to change or amend the 1987 constitutional provisions which set limits to foreign investment and land ownership. **AB**

*This is the first of a series on neoliberalism. The second part will deal with laws and orders implementing liberalization, privatization, deregulation and denationalization in the Philippines.*

## **Farmers demand land and justice**

THE UNYON NG MANGGAGAWA sa Agrikultura (UMA) and Anakpawis Partylist issued an open letter last May 17 in response to the 8-point economic agenda of the incoming Duterte regime.

UMA urged Duterte to render justice for farmers in the more than 6,000-hectare Hacienda Luisita by implementing genuine agrarian reform, raising wages and giving benefits to its farmworkers.

The group also called for an investigation of the corruption case over the US-Aquino regime's use of the Disbursement Acceleration Program (DAP) to compensate the Cojuangco-Aquino family for the 4,000 hectare Hacienda Luisita lands which should have been distributed to more than 6,000 farmworkers under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP).

"The Duterte administration should junk the sham CARP," said Danilo Ramos, secretary general of UMA. The group also demanded the punishment of all government officials, civilians and military personnel involved in the Hacienda Luisita massacre where seven farmworkers were killed.

Anakpawis Partylist also criticized the 8-point economic agenda of Duterte's advisers.

In particular, Anakpawis noted the omission of wage increases for farmworkers and the absence of a program to implement genuine agrarian reform. There was no mention of free land distribution as well as the perspective on national industrialization which will bring genuine economic development.

Anakpawis also reminded Duterte of his promise to provide free irrigation to farmers.

It is important to change the neoliberal framework concerning land. Otherwise, landlessness will remain a major problem of farmers in our country, just as Hacienda Luisita farmers were victimized by decades old land-grabbing by the Cojuangco-Aquino clan and by imposition of the stock distribution option (SDO).

They also encouraged Duterte to uphold genuine land reform and national industrialization. According to the group, agriculture must be developed in accordance with genuine land reform, collectivization of production and modernization of the means of production. These will provide the country's requirements for food security and raw materials for national industrialization. In the immediate term, the group recommends the incoming administration to ensure free irrigation, protection of farmlands and social welfare for farmers.

In the industry sector, they urged Duterte to carry out nationalization of strategic industries and sectors such as mining and steel, energy and utilities, transportation and communication.

According to Anakpawis Rep. Fernando Hicap, these efforts will significantly reduce unemployment. The value produced will be kept within the country if key industries are freed from foreign control and made to serve the people, instead of raking in huge profits for the private sector. **AB**

## What is neoliberalism?

NEO or new liberalism is an economic theory which emerged in the 1930s but only gained prominence during the early 1980s.

It promoted “free market” and “free trade” in a period when these no longer exist in the era of monopoly capitalism or imperialism. It portrays the current system as similar to the 19th century’s “free competition capitalism” when classical liberalism embodied a progressive movement against the feudal state’s obstruction to the development of the capitalist system.

The neoliberal policy regime became dominant during the early years of the 1980s, after then-US president Ronald Reagan and then-UK Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher translated neoliberalism into actual policies. Widespread privatization was implemented in the attempt to resolve the phenomenon of stagflation which they blamed on state economic intervention during the Great Depression and continued even after World War II.

Stagflation is the concurrent existence of economic stagnation (and the concomitant high unemployment rates) and inflation. Reagan and Thatcher blamed this on high wages and state spending on social services.

Neoliberalists advocated the view that capitalists should be free to increase profits and accumulate capital to stimulate production and spur economic growth. They then used this to attack the workers—their wages, jobs and unions and deny them social services by privatizing such services.

In the past three decades, the neoliberalists made it appear that there is no economic problem that can not be solved by flooding the monopoly capitalists with money and credit. The neoliberal policy regime was enforced in all parts of the globe through international finance institutions, mainly by the World Bank, International Monetary Fund and the US Treasury. It was imposed on countries riddled with crisis and desperate for capital in exchange for loan conditions. AB

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## Two labor strikes launched in Laguna

CONTRACTUAL workers of Manila Cordage Corporation and Manco Synthetic Incorporated in Calamba City, Laguna launched a joint labor strike last May 4 to oppose the “endo” system and demand regularization. These struggles are timely most especially since all factions of the reactionary classes, including presumptive Philippine president Rodrigo Duterte’s camp, have promised that they will eliminate the contractualization system.

The strike was led by MCC-Employees Labor Union and MSI-Employees Labor Union. Around 361 contractual workers from the two companies that produce abaca and nylon ropes for export participated in the strike. Many of the workers have been with these companies for five to eight years.

Prior to this, the workers have painstakingly fought for the recognition of their unions. Since May 2015, the management has refused to recognize the unions and have attacked the workers through illegal dismissals of 29 workers. Workers have likewise been suffering from the low daily wage of P315. Deductions for SSS, Philhealth and Pag-ibig are subtracted from their wages but are not remitted to the agencies. Also, illegal deductions are imposed on their wages whenever these are deposited to the banks.

The companies likewise disregard appropriate safety

regulations for the workers. Instead, the management compels the workers to buy its own over-priced safety equipment. As a result, a number of workers have already lost fingers to accidents, sustained burns and suffered other injuries. Worse, the workers themselves are left to pay for the medical expenses, and are not compensated for the days of missed work due to the accidents.

MCC and MSI are jointly owned by American and Filipino capitalists. The companies are registered as separate businesses but are run by a single management.

Kilusang Mayo Uno’s Roger Soluta said that despite the threats of suppression and dismissals, workers wage struggles to end anti-labor schemes. Workers from Ebara Benguet Incorporated (EBI), a company that produces steel pumps, are also set to strike, after the union members voted in favor of a strike against the company’s contractualization policy. MCC, MSI, and EBI are all located inside “Special Economic Zones” which are notorious for contractualization.

Meanwhile, workers from Nakashin-Davao launched a protest action last May 17. This comes after an earlier protest action by Nakashin workers last April 21 to oppose contractualization and demand benefits being withheld by the company. AB

## Peasant activist murdered in Sorsogon

ANOTHER extra-judicial killing was reported in Sorsogon this May. Two suspected military elements shot Rodel Erepol, 30, on May 6 inside his house in Barangay Bentuco, Gubat.

Around 8:30 in the evening, two men armed with M-16 rifles called on Erepol pretending to have a letter for him. He was met with gunfire when he opened the door, and was declared dead on arrival at the hospital. Erepol's sister is a human rights activist in Sorsogon. KARAPATAN is investigating her brother's murder.

Erepol returned just five days earlier from Manila where he sought refuge after his house was raided on February 24 by elements of the 31st IB based in Casay, Casiguran. His house was strafed, ransacked and his family's ID and other personal belongings taken.

Meanwhile, on 12:45 a.m., May 8, Jose Andaya, 70, a peasant political detainee at the Tinangis Penal Farm, in Pili, Camarines Sur, succumbed to a massive heart failure. Andaya was arrested by the PNP on April 24, 2015 on trumped-up criminal charges.

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## 10th TUMANDUK assembly held

TUMANDUK (Tumandok nga Mangunguma nga Nagapangapin sa Duta kag Kabuhi), an organization of indigenous people in Panay who struggle against oppression and exploitation, successfully held their 10th assembly in Barangay Katipunan, Tapaz, Capiz last April 8-10. TUMANDUK was founded on October 1996 to oppose the 3rd ID, AFP from displacing them from their lands. More than 800 representatives from Tapaz, Calinog, Lambunao and Janiuay and their supporters attended the activity.

Two days before the assembly, the 61st IB and PNP-Capiz conducted psychological operations, led by Lt. Col. Leonardo Peña and Senior Superintendent Robert Rodriguez, chief of police in Capiz. They gathered residents of Barangay Katipunan to discourage them from attending the TUMANDUK assembly because it was allegedly organized by the New People's Army and the Communist Party. Military troops also harassed youth groups rehearsing for their cultural performances for the event.

In the assembly, the Tumandoks vowed to expand their ranks, strengthen unity and resolutely defend their ancestral lands against the megadam project, military reservation and other projects by the US-Aquino and the forthcoming regime. The group also called for the total defeat of Oplan Bayanihan that brought great destruction to the lives and livelihood of Tumandok people.

They also celebrated their most recent victory against the destructive megadam project in the Jalaur and Pan-ay rivers. At the same time, the group commemorated their 20th year founding anniversary and 45th year of struggle against exploitation and oppression.

The NPA - Central Panay also expressed their solidarity with this historic occasion.

## Struggle to save Fabella Hospital launched

GABRIELA Women's Party (GWP) observed "Mother's day" last May 14 with a protest action to save Dr. Jose Fabella Memorial Hospital. Among the protesters was a group of mothers who have given birth to their infants in this hospital.

Before this, the Alliance of Health Workers (AHW) observed National Health Worker's Day on May 6 by marching to the Department of Health (DOH) from Fabella to protest its closure.

Fabella is the world's largest and busiest public hospital specializing in obstetrics and gynecology. This was established in 1920 in Sta. Cruz, Manila within the Old Bilibid compound. It currently provides affordable to free services daily to about 2,000 indigent women, with birthing services for 60-80 women. The World Health Organization cited this in 2015 as a model for its breastfeeding and kangaroo programs (using the mother's body warmth instead of incubators to care for premature infants).

GWP and AHW voiced their concern for the loss of affordable services for poor patients and the loss of jobs for health workers. They are demanding that the government modernize the hospital at its present site using public funds instead of subjecting it to privatization.

According to Emmi de Jesus of GWP, it is an outrage that for the past six years, amid the spike in maternal and infant deaths, the Aquino government continues to prioritize selling off hospitals to private investors.

The present site of the hospital has been granted by the government to real estate developer Home Guarantee Commission (HGC), a semi-government agency. Last April 25, Fabella director Esmeraldo Ilem announced that employees must vacate the premises by June 8.

The HGC had served notice to the DOH to remove the hospital since last year.

Fabella will be transferred to a smaller facility beside San Lazaro Hospital and Jose B. Reyes Memorial Medical Center to comprise a tri-medical complex in Manila, while the vacated property will be developed by HGC into a mixed-use housing and commercial area.

## 5 progressive parties win partylist elections

FIVE PROGRESSIVE parties won in the partylist system in the recent elections. This despite the widespread fraud through computerized vote counting and intimidation of people who voted for them.

Gabriela Women's Party (GWP) and ACT Teachers each garnered two seats while single seats were won by Bayan Muna, Anakpawis and Kabataan Partylist. GWP obtained the over-all second highest number of partylist votes.

These results reflect the desire of the people to have representatives who will attend to their interests within the reactionary congress. GWP commended the Filipino people not only for expressing their collective aspiration for the 2016 elections but more so for rejecting the Aquino regime.

GWP promised to work inside and outside of Congress to push for the programs for marginalized women and children, including bills for decent and affordable housing, health, education, addressing the unequal status of women and LGBTs, ending contractualization and abrogation of unequal economic and military treaties.

## Solidarity with the struggle of Kampung Dadap

THE FILIPINO people is in solidarity with the poor of Kampung Dadap, Tangerang, Indonesia in their struggle against PT Tangerang International.

Last May 10, 2016, more than 2,000 combined forces of Indonesian police and military opened fire to protesters against the eviction that will displace 1,872 families in Dadap. Five were hit with bullets and many others were wounded.

Eviction of houses in the coastal areas have long been opposed by the people. In 2013, Tangerang regent Ahmed Zaki Iskandar revealed that the administration had teamed up with PT Tangerang International. They plan to reclaim seven islands which will cover 9,000 hectares.

According to Rahmat Ajiguna, secretary general of Aliansi Gerakan Reforma Agraria (AGRA or Alliance of Peasants for Agrarian Reform), "The infrastructure projects like roads and railroads in Indonesia, which have displaced thousands in the countryside, serve to accelerate the flow of goods and raw materials and do not benefit the Indonesians."