

LIBERATION INTERNATIONAL

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Disaster victims receive emergency supplies from local and international non-profits. Photo from Citizen's Disaster Response Center.

Haiyan disaster draws global support

NDFP thanks support for relief and rehabilitation

By Luis G. Jalandoni
NDFP Chief International Representative

The National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) extends its profound and heartfelt thanks to all the international friends who extended and are giving much appreciated support and assistance for the relief and rehabilitation activities being undertaken for the millions of victims of the supertyphoon Haiyan (local name: Yolanda).

Revolutionary, anti-imperialist and progressive organizations have responded with expressions of solidarity. They have undertaken creative activities to collect and provide financial and material support. Filipinos throughout the world, communities, schools and organizations, have collected substantial amounts of money and emergency materials. International non-profits, such as the International Committee of the Red Cross, Doctors Without Borders and Caritas Internationalis, have gone to various areas in central Philippines, and provided personnel to give significant medical and other needed relief for the victims.

The loss of lives and homes is mind-boggling. As of this writing, the death toll has gone beyond 7,000, the missing many more thousands. The homeless number over four

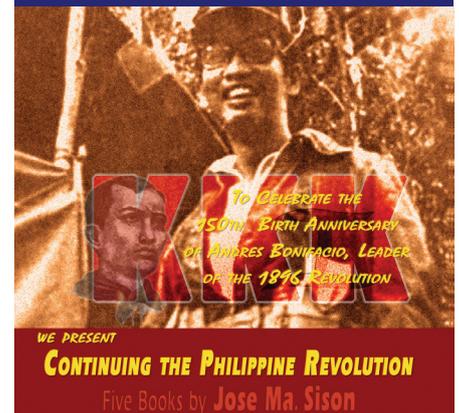
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million. The urgent need for food, drinking water, medicines, and shelter is overwhelming.

All revolutionary forces – branches of the Communist Party of the Philippines in the affected provinces, units of the New People’s Army and people’s militia, organs of political power and revolutionary mass organizations of workers, peasants, women, youth, children, and cultural groups – are concentrating their efforts in undertaking relief and rehabilitation work. They are helping to rebuild homes, engage in production for food, finding sources of safe drinking water, providing health care services, medicines and psychosocial assistance, etc.

People’s organizations and alliances from areas not directly hit by the supertyphoon, assisted by organizations in the affected areas, are carrying out heroic efforts to give assistance to the disaster victims. Just a few days after the hurricane winds subsided, organizations from Metro Manila and outlying regions collected food, medicines, and other emergency supplies. They organized relief mission teams and headed to the islands of Leyte, Samar, Cebu, Panay, and other affected areas. In the last weeks of November, around 500 volunteers from Mindanao, themselves victims of calamities of previous years, traveled to the typhoon stricken areas to provide help. The victims have organized themselves for self-help, and collectively worked to rebuild their homes and livelihood. The massive heroic effort is inspiring and engenders hope for stronger unity in building a better future.

In the meantime, the US-backed Aquino government is being roundly condemned for its criminal negligence and incompetence. It did not carry out any pre-disaster preparation. President Benigno Aquino III vetoed a parliamentary bill in 2011 which was supposed to provide funds for disaster-preparation structures and provisions. Aquino claimed that public funds would be better used when a disaster actually occurs.

Two days before supertyphoon Haiyan made landfall in

CRIMINAL INCOMPETENCE. Weeks after the typhoon, corpses and body bags still litter the streets of central Philippines. Photo from BALSAs.



Samar island, the Manila Observatory warned that mass evacuation was needed for residents in areas 8 to 16 kilometers from the coast. Aquino ignored this warning, so no evacuation was undertaken. In contrast, in Vietnam, 600,000 people were evacuated within two days, thus greatly minimizing loss of lives when Haiyan struck Vietnam.

The Aquino government did not have warehouses with food, medicines and other emergency supplies. When relief goods did arrive, there was no efficient delivery system. Even one month after the 8 November typhoon, many areas still have not received the needed food and other supplies, despite the massive international aid which were pouring into the country. Hence, the people in their millions are accusing Aquino of criminal negligence and incompetence.

Corruption by the Aquino regime is now being exposed as massive, with public funds plundered running into scores of billions of US dollars.

The US-supported Aquino government allowed thousands of US troops to come into the country. The US aircraft carrier USS Washington and six other warships entered the disaster areas. US troops took over the airports and seaports. The US has taken advantage of the disaster to escalate its military intervention in the Philippines. The Aquino regime blamed the disaster victims and accused them of looting and used this excuse to set up military rule in various typhoon affected areas.

While the CPP and NPA declared unilateral ceasefire in all typhoon affected areas and ordered all armed units and other revolutionary organizations to concentrate on relief and rehabilitation work, the Aquino government’s military and police forces continued to launch military operations against communities suspected of supporting the revolutionary movement.

The US and the Aquino governments are sabotaging the people’s heroic efforts to rebuild their lives and homes. To make matters even much worse, Aquino appointed a fascist killer, former senator Panfilo Lacson, as the so-called rehabilitation czar. Lacson is notorious for fascist brutalities during his

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CPP anniversary ushers Red town councils

By Roselle Valerio
Based on reports from Ang Bayan
Photo from davaotoday.com, Mart D. Sambalud

On and around the date of 26 December 2013, Party committees, units of the New People's Army, Filipino revolutionaries, and solidarity groups all over the Philippines and in different parts of the world successfully celebrated the 45th anniversary of the re-establishment of the Communist Party of the Philippines.

Clandestine but nevertheless public gatherings were held in scores of guerrilla zones in the Philippine countryside, some drawing thousands of Party members, Red fighters, revolutionary masses, and journalists. These gatherings were highlighted by performances of revolutionary songs, theatrical pieces, and other cultural forms that commemorate our martyrs, celebrate the Party's victories, and draw the line of march forward for the Philippine revolution.

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career as a young military officer during the Marcos dictatorship, and his bureaucratic criminal activities as national police chief under the deposed Estrada regime. He continues to maintain tight links with criminal syndicates involved in car-napping, kidnapping and illegal gambling.

Having no experience in rehabilitation work, Lacson is unfit for the herculean task of rehabilitating the physical infrastructure and economy of the devastated communities. By giving Lacson control over P40 billion (US\$913 million) of public funds, the Aquino regime is set to favor the interests

In the southern island of Mindanao, the celebration was made doubly significant as it achieved significant gains in building the guerrilla base, developing the armed struggle, and advancing agrarian revolution in the past year. Comrade Jorge Madlos, Spokesperson of the NDFP in Mindanao, said that there are now up to ten battalions of the NPA in the island, organized in platoon formations. He reports that local Party committees are leading the work in over 2,000 villages in 200 towns of the island, providing favorable conditions for the over-all advancement of revolutionary work in Mindanao.

The most striking of these advances is the establishment of organs of political power at the municipal level, despite the intense and brutal militarization of the enemy.

In one subregion, the celebration began at dawn of 26 December, with Red fighters and peasants gathering and flying 45 paper lanterns, symbolizing 45 years of the CPP's close guidance over the revolutionary movement in the area. Cultural performances paid tribute to the revolution's martyrs

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of big bourgeois compradors, like Lucio Tan and Danding Cojuangco.

In the face of the tremendous rebuilding work of the Filipino people, the NDFP reiterates its sincerest thanks for all the solidarity and assistance of international friends. The Filipino people call on the international community to continue providing financial, material, moral and political support to the people's valiant struggle to rebuild and shape their future to achieve economic development, genuine democracy and independence, towards socialist revolution.

A huge thank you! Maraming, maraming salamat! ■



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and extolled the leadership of the Party. A wedding ceremony was also conducted by the Party leadership for five pairs of Comrades – two from the NPA and three from the local Party branch.

Five platoons of NPA regulars and a platoon of the people's militia command unit from seven villages held a parade of colors. This was followed by a fancy drill performed by a platoon of Red fighters. An official from the subregional Party Committee then gave a speech about the current situation, the gains achieved in the area in 2013, and the challenges in sustaining and further advancing the revolution's tasks in the coming years.

The establishment of village-level revolutionary committees, and eventually municipal-level revolutionary committees, is a response to the Party's call to fast-track the building and consolidation of the guerrilla base. In one subregion, NPA units began establishing at the start of the year full-fledged mass organizations of the peasantry, women, and youth, from the village level towards the municipal level. Afterwards, the village revolutionary committees and its various sub-committees could be rapidly established. By the second half of 2013, the coordinating units of the people's militia at the municipal level were established. And by the end of the year, it became possible to establish the organs of political power at the municipal level.

In these villages, a widespread campaign for food production was launched, in order to provide an alternative to the people's usual income source of selling firewood. As a result, all the villages under the jurisdiction of revolutionary committees now have communal farms. Family or individual farm production was also improved through *lusong* or labor cooperation. Since the food production campaign started, small-scale logging has now virtually disappeared.

The areas covering these revolutionary committees were severely devastated by Typhoon Bopha (local name Pablo) in 2012. Comrade Sixto, an officer of one of the Municipal

Jorge Madlos -- Comrade Oris -- Spokesperson of the NDFP-Mindanao Chapter led the celebration of the CPP's 45th anniversary in the southern island of Mindanao. The event was held in San Luis town, Agusan del Sur province, and was attended by a thousand local villagers and hundreds more from the cities. Photo from www.philippinerevolution.net

Villages governed by Municipal Revolutionary Committees are now prospering from their individual and communal farms; they are managing their corn mill, health centers, water systems, schools.

Revolutionary Committees, disclosed that they have many gains to celebrate, "We were able to rise from the ruins caused by Typhoon Pablo; not because of help from the reactionary government, but with the cooperation of the New People's Army, the mass organizations and the Party."

He added, "From the very pitiful conditions (last year), the people's situation has brightened!"

After the typhoon, the people in the area suffered from severe hunger. But now, their communities are prospering after just two harvests from their individual and communal farms. Their communities are currently also managing their own corn mill, health centers, potable water systems, and schools.

They have also begun planting trees to regenerate the forests denuded by big logging concessionaires in the past decades.

The people are aware that their work is not over with the establishment of the municipal revolutionary committees. Comrade Sixto added that the continued expansion and consolidation of the committees is a challenge to them, and so is extending assistance so that other Red organs of political power will be established in the surrounding areas.

"We want to win the people's democratic revolution on the basis of the unity of the oppressed people," he said, "in order to seize state power and establish a government that genuinely serves the poor." ■



NPA launches 'combat medicine' trainings for new & advanced medics

Reports from *Ang Bayan* and *Diklap*
Photos from www.philippinerevolution.net

Leading medical officers of the New People's Army in Mindanao, in southern Philippines, took the Advanced Health Training in October 2013. The training was held in the mountainous areas of the Bukidnon-Davao Sub-Regional Command of the NPA. It was attended by 32 cadres from five regions, and medical officers of the NPA National Operations Command N-5, and the National Health Bureau of the Communist Party of the Philippines.

The Advanced Health Training's main content was "advanced trauma management" or the treatment of severe wounds sustained during combat. The course included medical procedures ranging from "basic life support" to operating on patients with gunshot wounds to the chest and abdomen, bone fractures, and other serious medical conditions. A review of anatomy and other basic medical processes became an integral part of the course practicum.

The course on managing trauma due to gunshot wounds included cricothyrotomy, an operation conducted on persons with gunshot wounds to the chest whose lungs fill with blood. The course also included laparotomy, or making an incision through the abdominal wall to stop internal bleeding and as first aid for other operations on the abdomen, intestines, and adjacent internal organs. The course likewise included orthopedic operations, amputations, skin traction, bone pinning, bone cementing, and/or metal implantation.

In partnership with a squad of Red fighters, the participants conducted a role-playing scenario about an armed raid with

several wounded. They studied the correct maneuvers during a combat situation, such as crawling into the "killing zone" to retrieve the wounded, and bringing them to the first and second medical stations.

At the first station, the medics applied first aid to the patients. At the second station, the patients were carefully cleaned and bandaged to stop any bleeding.

The wounded were given intravenous infusions and loaded on stretchers for immediate transfer to the third station, which served as the field hospital where the necessary equipment are positioned and operations are conducted.

The training was sponsored by the NPA Regional Command and the Party Subregional Committee. With the help of local revolutionary forces, the facilities necessary to conduct the training effectively were built – a school building for lectures, a kitchen, dormitory huts, latrines, among others.

Security at the camp was ensured by Red fighters, in partnership with the people's militia in the villages adjacent to the area.

The entire course pushed through without a hitch. There was a fruitful exchange of experiences among the participants who included highly experienced revolutionary medics. It was not difficult for them to grasp the lessons and procedures. Another major factor in the training's success was the region's assiduous preparations, the widespread support from the People's Army and the masses, and the untiring efforts of the participants and their supporters.

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After the training, the medical cadres launched the Mindanao Medical Conference, where they reaffirmed the need to conduct regular medical conferences as a means of raising the level of their knowledge and skills in modern medical advances and of cooperation on practical issues and problems.

They resolved to expand the number of medical personnel by identifying trainable Red fighters, launching trainings and sharing experiences. The medical officers agreed that their abilities must keep pace as the People's War gains strength, especially now that the entire revolutionary movement looks forward to completing the requisites for achieving the strategic stalemate.

Meanwhile, in northern Philippines, 30 new medics belonging to the NPA Apolonio Mendoza Command in the Quezon-Bondoc peninsula also underwent medical training on first aid, acupuncture, and dental care and tooth extraction. The

trainees also discussed the Revolutionary Code of Medical Ethics, about the correct attitude and relations with patients and among medical officers in the people's army. The 10-day training was also conducted in October 2013, and was provided by comrades from the Makabayang Samahang Pangkalusugan (MSP, Patriotic Health Association), one of the allied organizations of the NDFP.

After the training, the new medics conducted a clinic for the Red fighters and a number of villagers in the area. One of the newly-trained medics, Comrade Jeremy, exclaimed, "Armed with these knowledge and skills, the NPA is more capable of expressing its compassion and service for the masses."

Armine de Guia, Spokesperson of the NPA Apolonio Mendoza Command, declared, "Successfully carrying out the medical training indicates this guerrilla front's readiness for the intensification of People's War, especially now that we're looking forward to achieving strategic stalemate in the next few years." (*Ang Bayan* is the official news organ of the Communist Party of the Philippines; *Diklap* is the news organ of the CPP in South Quezon – Bondoc Peninsula) ■

Peoples' Clinic: Social Welfare Service.
Photos from www.philippinerevolution.net



Doctors in the People's Army

From Ang Bayan

Comrade Lalee has been a medic in the New People's Army for more than three decades. She is a member of the Regional Medical Staff (RMS) of the Regional Operations Command (ROC) of the New People's Army in Southern Mindanao. In October 2013, she finished taking the Advanced Health Training where her skills as a fighter-doctor of the people were further honed.

"Currently, the RMS has 16 medics in Southern Mindanao," said Comrade Lalee. The RMS is a military formation that addresses the needs of NPA units in the region. The RMS plans to expand towards being a full-fledged platoon in 2014.

"The medics within the RMS are of various levels," explained Comrade Lalee. "There are cadres, practitioners, and trainees." Medical cadres are those who have finished taking the advanced courses, are able to perform combat

surgery, manage big teams of medics, and conduct trainings.

Practitioners are those who have finished taking the Intermediate Health Training, and are able to perform minor operations. They are medics who can perform tooth extractions, circumcisions and minor surgery such as cyst removals. The cadres and practitioners have the ability to diagnose illnesses and write prescriptions. The trainees are at the most basic level, and have just begun their training both in the formal courses and in practical tasks. They implement basic regulations on sanitation and nutrition, and treat common ailments.

"Although the RMS' main task is to see to the health of the people's army, it likewise ensures the health of the masses by forming Barrio Medical Groups (BMG), and by conducting trainings in the villages," said Comrade Lalee. Together with the BMG medics, the RMS conducts people's clinics in the villages within its area of operations, as part of its task of providing services to the guerrilla bases being established by the NPA. ■

CPP, NDFP condemn 40-year sentence vs. Eduardo Sarmiento

By Roselle Valerio

Philippine revolutionaries led by the Communist Party of the Philippines roundly condemned the US-backed Aquino regime for convicting Comrade Eduardo Sarmiento to 40 years imprisonment on trumped-up charges of illegal possession of firearms and explosives. The conviction and sentencing was carried out by Judge Myra Bayot Quiambo of the Muntinlupa Regional Trial Court on 11 December 2013.

Sarmiento serves as a Peace Consultant for Eastern Visayas of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines, engaged in peace talks with the Aquino government. He was in Metro Manila conducting discussions and consultations related to peace negotiations when he was arrested by the Armed Forces of the Philippines on 24 February 2009.

Luis G. Jalandoni, Chairperson of the NDFP Negotiating Panel in peace talks with the Manila government, vigorously condemned the conviction, declaring, “His arrest, detention and sentencing are flagrant violations of the Joint Agreement on Safety and Immunity Guarantees, signed and approved by the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the NDFP in 1995.”

“The JASIG guarantees all participants in the GRP-NDFP peace negotiations immunity from surveillance, harassment, search, arrest, detention, prosecution and interrogation, or any other punitive actions,” Jalandoni pointed out.

“The gross violation of the rights of NDFP Consultant Eduardo Sarmiento exposes again the Aquino regime’s lack of respect for the Comprehensive Agreement on Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law (CARHRIHL),” Jalandoni added. “This agreement, signed and approved by the GRP and NDFP in 1998, stipulates that political prisoners charged, detained or convicted in violation

of the Hernandez political offense doctrine of 1956 ought to be released.”

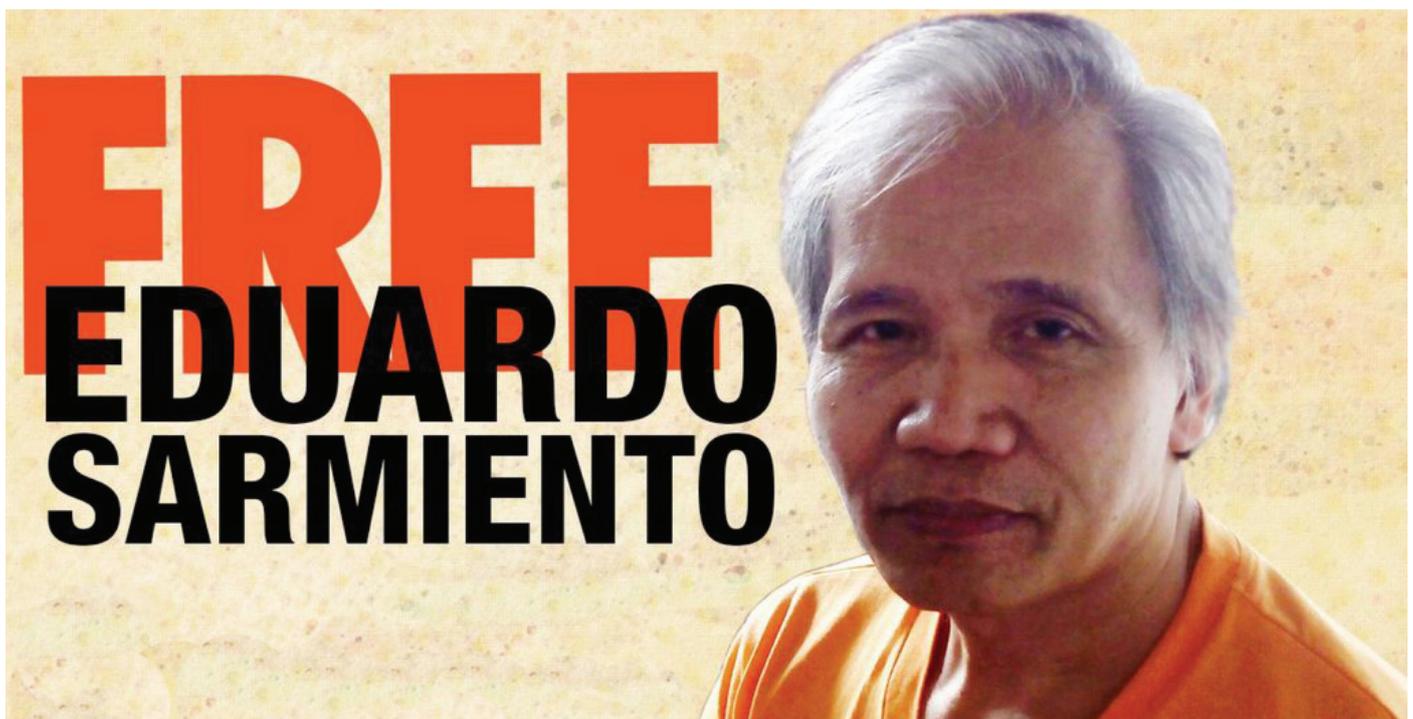
The CPP pointed out, “Even under the laws of the Manila government, Sarmiento’s arrest and detention was illegal. He was taken into custody by the military without any warrant, in violation of his basic right against arbitrary arrest. Furthermore, the supposed pieces of evidence against him were planted by the military operatives who carried out his illegal arrest.”

Sarmiento, 62 years old, is among the 400 political prisoners being detained under the Aquino regime, 150 of whom were arrested over the past three years. At least 13 NDFP peace consultants are languishing in various prisons and detention facilities under the Aquino regime. Acts that they have allegedly committed in furtherance of their political convictions are being regarded by the Aquino regime as common crimes, such as illegal possession of firearms, murder, robbery in band, and arson.

“This development makes the resumption of formal peace negotiations between the NDFP and the Aquino government ever more difficult, as it exemplifies the grave danger posed on the lives of NDFP consultants as a result of the Aquino regime’s refusal to abide by outstanding agreements,” pointed out the CPP.

The CPP demanded that the Aquino government rescind the conviction and sentencing of NDFP Consultant Eduardo Sarmiento. It also called on the human rights community, peace advocates both in the Philippines and abroad, to stand together to defend the lives of all NDFP peace consultants and amplify the demand for their release.

Jalandoni also stated, “The NDFP calls on human rights and peace advocate organizations in the Philippines and abroad to launch an effective campaign for the release of NDFP Consultant Eduardo Sarmiento, other NDFP detained consultants, and all political prisoners.” ■



Prof. Sison launches 5-book series: Continuing the Philippine Revolution

By Roselle Valerio

Prof. Jose Maria Sison, Founding Chairman of the Communist Party of the Philippines, has recently announced the release of a five-book series of his selected writings entitled *Continuing the Philippine Revolution*. The books will contain his most important works from the years 1968 to 1990.

Continuing the Philippine Revolution encompasses the following book titles: *Foundation for Resuming the Philippine Revolution*; *Defeating Revisionism, Reformism and Opportunism*; *Building Strength through Struggle*; *Detention and Defiance Against Dictatorship*; and *Continuing the Struggle for National and Social Liberation*.

Prof. Sison, commenting on the book series, explained, “*Foundation for Resuming the Philippine Revolution* contains the founding documents of the Communist Party of the Philippines, such as its Constitution and the Program for a People’s Democratic Revolution; and of the New People’s Army, such as its Declaration and its Rules.

“It contains the articles that I wrote in the period of 1968 to 1972. These reflect the circumstances and initial efforts of the Filipino people and the Party to continue the Philippine revolution.”

He adds, “The first book presents comprehensively the principles, policies and program of action of the Communist Party of the Philippines in leading the Filipino people’s revolutionary struggle for national liberation and democracy against their barefaced and frontal adversaries – US imperialism, feudalism and bureaucrat capitalism.”

The second book, *Defeating Revisionism, Reformism and Opportunism*, encompasses the years 1969 up to 1974. This book, Sison explains, “shows the adversaries on the flanks, such as revisionism, reformism and opportunism, which if unchecked could be detrimental to the people and the revolution.”

He adds, “From the books you can gain insights into why and how the revolutionary movement has been able to win the support of millions of Filipinos, withstand the brutal campaigns of suppression designed by US strategic planners and

unleashed by the Marcos fascist dictatorship and the post-Marcos pseudo-democratic regimes and to grow in strength and advance from one stage to another.”

The first and second books are now available for sale from the International Network for Philippine Studies. Inquiries and international orders can be placed by email with inps@ziggo.nl.

The third book, *Building Strength through Struggle*, covers the period of 1972 through 1977. It will be launched in February 2014, to coincide with Prof. Sison’s 55 years of service to the Philippine revolutionary struggle and his 75th birth anniversary.

Prof. Sison was the Chairman of the Communist Party of the Philippines and Chairman of its Military Commission during its Congress of re-establishment in 1968. He led the founding of the New People’s Army in 1969 and co-founded the National Democratic Front of the Philippines in 1973.

Currently, he is the Chief Political Consultant of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines in peace negotiations with the Manila government. He is also the Chairperson of the International Coordinating Committee of the International League of Peoples’ Struggle.

As a Marxist theorist and political scientist, he is frequently requested to address various conferences, assemblies and organizations; as well as to lecture in various academic forums on significant Philippine and global political, economic, social and cultural issues. A much-anthologized poet, he also gets invited to read his poems and to write and lecture on poetry. ■

Prof. Sison signing copies of Defeating Revisionism, Reformism and Opportunism during its public launch on 22 December 2013. Photo by NDFP-IIO.



The National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) is an alliance of revolutionary organizations with roots in the various sectors and regions of the Philippines. Its goal is to build a society that enjoys national sovereignty, genuine democracy, social justice, progress and peace.

It seeks to unite with all forces willing to achieve these goals.

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