

ANG

Pahayagan ng Partido Komunista ng Pilipinas
Pinapatnubayan ng Marxismo-Leninismo-Maoismo

Bayan

English Edition
Vol. XLV No. 19
October 7, 2014
www.philippinerevolution.net

Editorial

Aquino clings to power like a leech amid mounting calls for his ouster

Benigno Aquino III is clinging to power like a leech in refusing to heed mounting calls for his resignation, removal or ouster from power. His stubborn refusal to leave Malacañang is reminiscent of Gloria Arroyo's intransigence amid mounting protests from 2005 onwards.

Over the past several weeks, the stench of the Aquino regime's corruption continued to reek.

Aquino's insistence that the Disbursement Acceleration Program (DAP) is a system by which billions of pesos are being realigned as "savings" for use in priority projects has been thoroughly exposed as a lie. The list of projects and its proponents under DAP recently made public clearly shows that DAP funds were released mainly to Aquino's political allies, especially key officers of the Liberal Party.

In particular, large amounts of funds were found to have been disproportionately allocated to Rep. Henedina Abad for her "beautification and greening projects" in their small province of Batanes. Congresswoman Abad is the wife of Budget Secretary Florencio Abad, who has been under fire for being the chief architect, implementor and defender of the DAP.

Over the past few days, Aquino's police chief, Dir. Gen.

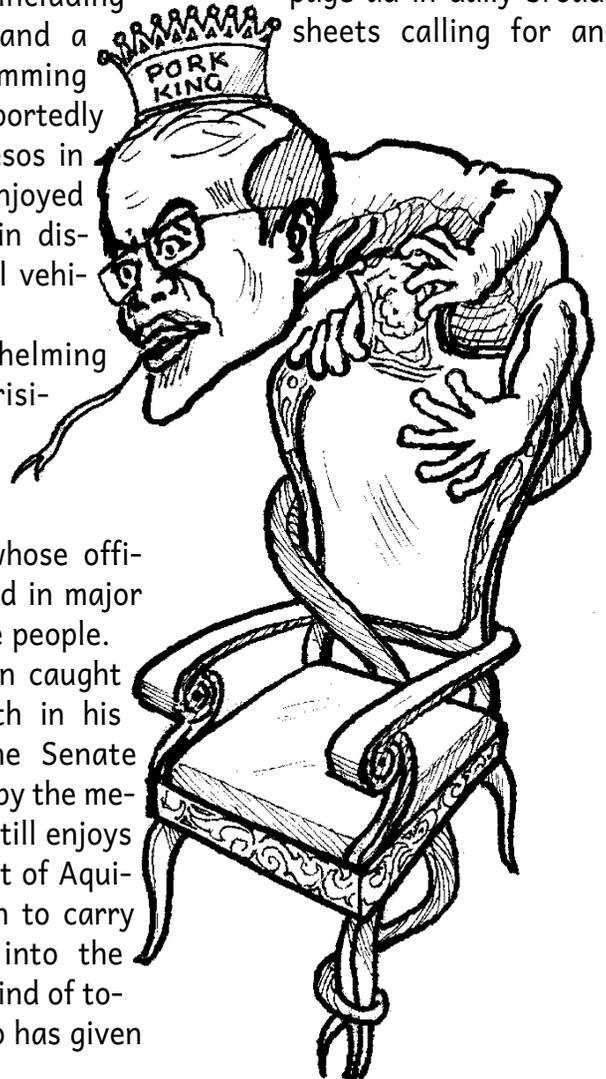
Alan Purisima, who has long been a close personal aide and stooge of the Aquinos, has been in hot water for having accumulated properties way beyond his salary as a police officer, including vast tracts of land and a mansion with a swimming pool. He has also reportedly received millions of pesos in "contributions" and enjoyed several million pesos in discounts for his personal vehicle.

There are overwhelming calls for General Purisima's removal, especially as his failure to clean up the Philippine National Police whose officers have been involved in major crimes has angered the people.

Despite having been caught lying through his teeth in his testimonies before the Senate and under questioning by the media, General Purisima still enjoys the unwavering support of Aquino who sees no reason to carry out an investigation into the PNP. This is the same kind of total support that Aquino has given Secretary Abad.

Amid numerous allegations of graft and corruption, Aquino insists that his regime continues to be the model of "good governance" and hews to the "righteous path".

In a desperate attempt to make it appear that there is popular support for Aquino, his Yellow Army operatives of PR specialists paid for a full-page ad in daily broadsheets calling for an-



other term for Aquino. This is after failing to generate a clamor in social media websites. Over the past month, Aquino's "one-more-term" Facebook page only managed to gather a trickle of new fans.

Contrary to Malacañang's claims, there is no widespread clamor for an extension of Aquino's term. Still, Aquino's spokespersons continue to stubbornly insist otherwise, asserting that Aquino is still listening to his "bosses" and will remain open to a term extension.

The regime's political operatives have failed to mount a campaign for an Aquino term extension because of the overarching socio-economic crisis that has resulted in unprecedented numbers of unemployed and underemployed workers, worsening oppression and bigger numbers of people in the quagmire of poverty.

Growing numbers of sectors are demanding an end to Aquino's rule. The most vocal and assertive are the workers, peasants, students and other democratic sectors that are the most

oppressed by Aquino's corruption, mendacity, brutality and acquiescence to foreign dictates. Recently, religious groups led by Catholic bishops and archbishops openly called for Aquino's resignation. They have added their voices to those of more and more Filipinos disgusted with the Aquino regime and are seeking its immediate ouster.

Judging by Aquino's statements and actions, he is bound to exert all-out effort to cling to power beyond 2016 either through the election of a proxy or by seeking a second or extended term.

To realize their aspiration to oust the Aquino regime, the Filipino people must act with dispatch. They must build their strength to force Aquino out of power by organizing in big numbers in their factories, communities, offices and university campuses. They must strengthen their determination by carrying out political education to firmly grasp the tasks of waging political mass actions to oust the Aquino regime. **AB**

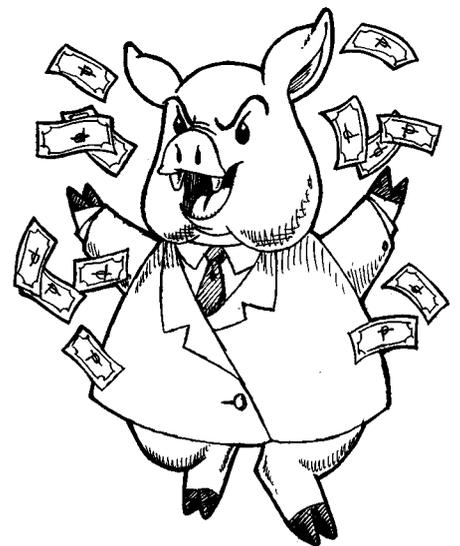
DAP funds used to bribe Aquino allies

The Aquino clique's closest allies and friends benefited the most from the Disbursement Acceleration Program (DAP) from 2011 to 2013. This is according to a list prepared by the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) that is now under scrutiny in a Congressional investigation.

The list shows that the biggest recipient of DAP funds is Department of Transportation and Communications Sec. Joseph Emilio Abaya (₱408 million). Next on the list are House Speaker Feliciano "Sonny" Belmonte Jr. (₱297 million) and Majority Leader Neptali Gonzales II (₱263 million).

As was disclosed in 2013, the biggest volumes of DAP funds were released with the greatest frequency at the time when then Supreme Court Justice Renato Corona was being ousted. The DBM released up to ₱6.5 billion during Corona's trial at the Senate.

The biggest chunk—₱819 million—was released by the DBM on November 23, 2011, two weeks before the majority of senators found Corona guilty.



Vol. XLV No. 19 October 7, 2014

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Ang *Ang Bayan* ay inilalathala dalawang beses bawat buwan ng Komite Sentral ng Partido Komunista ng Pilipinas

Eighty-two congressmen and senators were "compensated" to the tune of ₱10 million each. Most of them were Aquino's party mates in the Liberal Party and allies from the Nacionalista Party.

Before and after Corona's impeachment, the DBM released DAP bribes three times in the form of funds ostensibly for various local infrastructure projects. The total releases amounted to ₱99.6 billion, or 69% of all DAP funds issued by the DBM in three years. Among the senators who received DAP funds in the days on or around Corona's ouster were Pia Cayetano (₱33 million on December 9) and Antonio Trillanes IV (₱73 million on December 13). Also recipients of DAP funds on December 13 were Sens. Aquilino Pimentel III (₱90 million); Juan Ponce Enrile (₱35 million); Serge Osmeña (₱100 million); and Alan Peter Cayetano (₱44 million). Corona was ousted on December 12, 2011.

Aside from the usage of DAP funds to impeach Corona, the list also shows a pattern of using these monies to fund the election campaigns of Aquino allies, in particular, ruling coalition candidates

Alan Peter Cayetano and Antonio Trillanes IV. From October 2012 to May 2013, Cayetano received ₱156 million in DAP funds while Trillanes benefited from ₱153 million during the election.

The DBM's own summary shows that more than ₱14 billion in DAP funds were used as campaign funds in the form of "assistance to local government units" and funding for local infrastructure projects since early March 2013. The DBM continuously released funds despite a ban by the Commission on Elections on government spending during the electoral campaign period. Sen. Franklin Drilon received the biggest funds (₱66.2 million in the form of Special Allotment Release Orders or SARO from March 14 to 22). The infrastructure funds, on the other hand, amounted to ₱11 billion.

Contrary to claims by the DBM and Aquino, DAP funds do not actually end up in "priority projects." For example, ₱30 million in DAP funds were used by Rep. Henedina Abad for beautification projects in Batanes province. **AB**

National coconut farmers' forum held in Albay

A national conference of small coconut farmers was held in Guinobatan, Albay on September 8-9 to achieve a united stand on the Aquino clique's latest maneuvers on the coco levy fund and address other issues confronting them such as the coconut scale insect ("cocolisap") infestation. Led by the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP) and the Coco Levy Funds Ibalik sa Amin (CLAIM), the conference gathered leaders and representatives of coconut farmers' organizations and their supporters from Cagayan, Aurora, Quezon, the Bicol provinces, Samar, Leyte, Aklan, Bukidnon and North Cotabato.

One of the conference's major resolutions was to forge nationwide unity on how to recover and distribute the coco levy fund to small coconut farmers. In a statement of unity, the participants reiterated the call for the immediate recovery of the coco levy fund by distributing it to small coconut farmers in the form of social benefits. This may take the form of educational, medical, pension and livelihood support.

They asserted the need to recognize the small coconut farmers as the backbone of the industry. Thus, they should be the coco levy fund's main beneficiaries. They likewise asserted that it is the coconut farmers' associations that should certify who the coco levy beneficiaries should be. They rejected the use of receipts as proof, since small coconut farmers are not issued receipts during transactions.

The coconut farmers like-

wise denounced attempts by the Aquino clique to privatize corporations that were established using the coco levy fund. Aquino is scheduled to issue an order that would put four oil mills, 14 companies, the United Coconut Planters Bank, Cocolife and other entities on the auction block. They declared that Aquino had no right to sell these corporations and use the monies and properties of the small coconut farmers. They had earlier denounced proposals by Aquino minions to use the fund for the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program extension and the National Anti-Poverty Commission, among others. They also rejected a scheme by Akbayan allies to place the monies in a trust fund and confer Aquino with the authority to use them as he pleases.

The coco levy fund's current accumulated value is estimated at ₱246 billion, up from the ₱9.7 billion collected by 1982. It was sourced from a tax im-

posed by the Marcos dictatorship on all coconut farmers from 1972 to 1982. The tax was automatically deducted from their incomes whenever they sold copra.

The national consultation likewise resolved to resist Executive Order (EO) 169 which mandates the use of toxic chemicals to counter the cocolisap infestation. Neonicotinoid is one of the most dangerous pesticides, according to the Pesticide Action Network International and other institutions, since it poses hazards to health and the environment. The EO also bans the transport of other raw materials sourced from coconut such as leaves and seeds. **AB**

42nd martial law anniversary commemorated

A protest action was held in Mendiola, Manila on September 21 to mark the 42nd anniversary of the declaration of martial law. The rallyists called to mind the crimes of the Marcos regime and pointed out the need for continuing people's struggles in the face of relentless state violence under the US-Aquino regime.

From July 2010 to June 2014, there were 204 cases of extrajudicial killing, 21 cases of forced disappearance, 99 cases of torture and 65,712 cases of intimidation/harassment, 664 cases of illegal arrest and detention on the basis of trumped-up charges, as well as other forms of military abuse under Oplan Bayanihan.

In Tacloban City, more than 300 people launched a protest action. Aside from commemorating martial law, they called for Aquino's ouster due to intensifying militarization in Eastern Visayas.

A similar mass action was held in Kidapawan, North Cotabato. **AB**

Armed actions in Iloilo, Samar, Davao, Bukidnon

Successive armed actions were launched by New People's Army (NPA) units in Iloilo, Samar, Davao and Bukidnon from August to September. Meanwhile, the release of two prisoners of war arrested in Impasug-ong, Bukidnon has been postponed indefinitely due to the AFP's intransigence.

Iloilo. Four soldiers under the 82nd IB were killed and at least two were wounded in three successive harassment operations launched by Red fighters under the NPA Napoleon Tumagtang Command in Igaras and Tubungan towns on September 17 and 18. The NPA guerrillas were able to make a safe retreat in these firefights.

Three soldiers were killed and several others wounded when an NPA unit used command-detonated explosives (CDX) on rampaging forces of the 82nd IB in Sitio Butuan, Igcabugao, Igaras on September 17.

The morning after, an NPA unit harassed the battalion's Bravo Coy detachment in Barangay Lanag, Tubungan, inflicting

an undetermined number of casualties.

By afternoon, another soldier was killed and still another wounded in an NPA ambush on patrolling military troops in Barangay Buloc, Tubungan.

Northern Samar. Six soldiers were killed, including two lieutenants in NPA military actions in July and August.

On August 31, the platoon leader of enemy troops operating in Barangay Poponton, Las Navas was killed by NPA sniper fire while taking his lunch.

On August 22, a sergeant serving as commander of a CAF-GU detachment was killed in an NPA ambush on 34th IB troops conducting operations in Lope de Vega town.

On August 17, Red fighters sniped at a 17-man unit under the 34th IB at 11:30 a.m. while the soldiers were resting and preparing lunch in Barangay Imelda, Las Navas, killing a lieutenant. In the ensuing gunbattle, two more soldiers were killed on the spot. Another soldier was seriously wounded and eventually died.

Earlier, a soldier was killed on the spot and another seriously wounded in a clash between an NPA unit and the same military troops in Barangay San Miguel, Las Navas on July 31. The guerrillas safely retreated.

Davao. At least six AFP troops were killed in a series of attritive actions by the NPA and people's militia in Paquibato and Calinan Districts, Davao City in September.

On September 23, two soldiers under the 69th IB were killed and scores wounded in a CDX attack on the KM 40 truck

they were riding in Baksarpa, Barangay Malabog at around 7:30 a.m. The day after, another soldier was killed by NPA sniper fire in Kibatón, Barangay Domingga, Calinan District.

Earlier, on September 20, two other soldiers from the same military unit were killed in an NPA sniping operation in Cagamcam, Barangay Sumimao.

On September 9, a soldier was killed and three others wounded in an ambush by the 1st Pulang Bagani Battalion on forces conducting a Peace and Development Outreach Program in Salagunting, Barangay Fatima, Paquibato.

Meanwhile, on September 3, the people's militia confiscated eight military vests, pack bags and ammunition left unattended by 69th IB troops at their detachment in Barangay Mapula. The militia later burned down the detachment.

Bukidnon. The NPA South Central Bukidnon Subregional Command paralyzed two payloaders and a dump truck belonging to Uy Builders Development Corp. in Liboan, Lumbayao, Valencia City on the night of September 21. The company was punished because it violated the policies of the people's government.

Meanwhile, the release of prisoners of war Pfc. Marnel Cinches and Pfc. Jerrel Yorong has not pushed through because of the AFP's adamant refusal to declare a Suspension of Offensive Military Operations (SOMO). Instead, the military continues to conduct rescue operations.

Due to the absence of a SOMO, NPA units on September 22 were forced to mount two harassment operations against 8th IB soldiers conducting rescue operations in Impasug-ong and Bulunay towns. The 8th IB forces suffered a still undetermined number of casualties. **AB**

Coordinated attacks launched in Bicol

The New People's Army (NPA) in Bicol launched near-simultaneous attacks on 18 military detachments from September 26 to 29. The coordinated attacks were launched in Sorsogon, Albay and Camarines Sur provinces.

According to initial reports, 22nd and 42nd IB troops suffered a number of casualties in successive sniping operations by the Eduardo Olbara Command against six military detachments in Camarines Sur. The detachments subjected to attack were those of the 22nd IB in Barangay Lobong, Bato; 22nd CAA Infantry Battalion in Barangay Nababarira, Baa; 42nd IB in Barangay Ipil, Buhi; 22nd IB in Barangay Bical, Libmanan; 22nd IB in Barangay Lubigan, Sipocot; and 42nd IB in Barangay Malinao, Libmanan. The attacks were launched between 10:55 p.m. of September 8 and 3 a.m. of September 29.

Meanwhile, nine detachments belonging to the 22nd and 31st IB, PNP Mobile Force and Philippine Army Peace and Development Team were harassed by forces under the NPA Celso Minguez Command in Sorsogon: in Barangay Banuang-Daan, Matnog (Globe Security Forces-22nd IB); Barangay Bilaoyon, Sta. Magdalena (22nd IB-CAFGU); Barangay San Isidro, Bulan (31st IB Charlie Coy); Barangay Mapaso, Irosin (22nd IB); Barangay Casay, Casiguran (31st IB Alpha Coy); Barangay San Antonio, Casiguran (PNP Provincial Mobile Force); Barangay Rizal, Casiguran (31st IB); Barangay Rizal, Gubat (22nd IB); and Barangay San Francisco, Donsol (Philippine Army Peace and Development Team).

In Albay, three 22nd IB detachments were harassed by the NPA Santos Binamera Command in Barangay Del Rosario, Camalig; Barangay Maopi, Daraga; and Barangay Harigi, Libon. **AB**

NPA attacks protector of mining giants

The Philippine Army resumed conducting a massive combined military operation along the tri-boundary of Matan-ao, Davao del Sur; Tampakan, South Cotabato; and Columbio, Sultan Kudarat in September to defend Sagittarius Mines Inc. (SMI). Among the military units providing security to this mining giant are the 73rd IB, 39th IB and 27th IB under the 1002nd Brigade, 10th ID; and the 33rd IB under the 601st Brigade, 6th ID.

To disrupt the military operation, a sapper team under the Alex Ababa Command-Front 71 harassed a column under the 73rd IB in Sitio Kalasangan, Caburan, Jose Abad Santos, Davao Occidental while another team from NPA Front 75 attacked recently arrived troops in Sitio Tugal, Pangaleon in Malita town, Davao Occidental. On the other hand, sapper teams from the Julito Banda Command-Front 73 simultaneously harassed the 27th IB in Lake Sebu and Surallah, South Cotabato on September 5. The NPA tar-



ged military teams conducting "peace and development outreach programs" in Sitio Datal Lawa, Upper Sepaka, Surallah and a CAFGU Armed Auxiliary detachment in Sitio Tasaday Blit, Barangay Ned, Lake Sebu and in Upper Sepaka, wounding two paramilitary troops. In another operation, operatives from the Mt. Alip Command-Front 72 lobbed grenades at the tactical command post of the 1002nd Brigade in New Batangan, Columbio on September 21. On the same day, Red fighters from Front 73 seized a 12-gauge shotgun from a despotic landlord in Laconom, T'boli town.

The day after, the NPA used command-detonated explosives (CDX) on the PNP 2nd Public Safety Company in Batangan, killing a policeman and wounding another.

Another soldier was killed and many others wounded when Red fighters lobbed grenades at 73rd IB troops in Sitio Datal Pitak, Kolon Sabak, Matan-ao town. Because land travel is difficult in this farflung area, the AFP had to use helicopters to retrieve its casualties. The enemy fired mortars on civilian communities on September 28 and 29 to retaliate. **AB**

NXP workers win strike

Workers from the NXP Semiconductors Cabuyao Incorporated in Cabuyao, Laguna successfully ended their strike with the signing of a new collective bargaining agreement (CBA) on September 26.

The NXP Semiconductors Cabuyao Incorporated Workers' Union-National Federation of Labor Unions-Kilusang Mayo Uno (NXPSCIWU-NAFLU-KMU) struck on May 5 after management fired 24 union leaders in an attempt to bust the union and put a stop to negotiations for a new CBA. For five months, the union launched a series of mass actions demanding the immediate reinstatement of their terminated leaders and the resumption of CBA negotiations. With the help of supporters within the country and overseas, they incessantly waged organized and militant resistance within the export processing zone and against the Department of Labor and Employment.

The NXPSCIWU-NAFLU-KMU achieved the following in the new CBA for 2014-16:

1) The reinstatement of 12 union leaders. The 12 others who will not be reinstated will receive their corresponding separation pay.

2) A 5.25% wage hike in the first year; 3.5% in the second year; and another 3.5% in the third year.

3) The regularization of almost 200 contractual workers; and

4) The withdrawal of all cases related to the strike and the workers' struggle.

The workers thanked all of their supporters in the country and abroad, saying they learned valuable

lessons from their five-month strike. They grasped the importance of unity and collective action in defending their rights as workers. It was not easy to go against a multinational company like NXP Semiconductors.

The NXP workers are aware that whatever victory they achieve under the current system will be fragile and temporary and that they must continue to protect their gains by strengthening their union and consolidating their members. The NXP union pledged to help build other unions and continuously struggle for workers' rights.

The NXPSCIWU-NAFLU-KMU is one of the country's oldest and biggest unions. NXP Semiconductors, which manufactures spare parts for cell-phones, including iPhones, is located within an export-processing zone—enclaves infamous for repressive policies, such as a ban on unions, and widespread contractualization. **AB**



Davao strike, Cebu protest

Workers belonging to the Radio Mindanao Network-Davao Employees Union (RMN-DEU) struck on October 2 after a deadlock in negotiations with management for a new collective bargaining agreement (CBA). The workers shut down the radio station after management refused to implement provisions in the CBA signed in 2012.

Among the provisions the company has failed to comply with is the issuance of a ₱1.3-million "economic package," a ₱1040-monthly pay hike for 2013 and a ₱1,560-monthly wage increase in 2014. The union likewise demanded the regularization of contractual workers who were not union members.

Meanwhile, the workers' union at Cenapro Chemical Corporation bared the subhuman working conditions at their factory in Mandaue City, Cebu. The workers charged that they were being forced to work for 16 hours a day, causing them to suffer frequently from fatigue and various ailments.

In a statement, the Cenapro Chemicals Employees Association (CCEA-ANGLO-KMU) said that its workers had filed a notice of strike as far back as August 1 to protest the management's unilateral termination of CBA negotiations and the harassment of their leaders. AB

Aquino meets with protests overseas

Protests met Benigno Aquino III during his trips to Europe and the US in September.

When Aquino spoke at the World's Leaders Forum organized by Columbia University at its Low Memorial Library in New York City on September 23, members of Anakbayan-New Jersey, GABRIELA-New York and Filipino-American youth activists who were in the audience simultaneously stood up holding placards saying "slashing disaster relief funds vs pork barrel system" and "human rights abuses, impunity, Hacienda Luisita."

An activist challenged Aquino to answer questions on the PDAF and DAP scandals, government neglect of victims of super typhoons Yolanda and Pablo and continuing human rights abuses.

Outside the building, members of Bagong Alyansang Makabayan-USA, GABRIELA-USA and the New York Human Rights Alliance in the Philippines were picketing. The activist joined them after succeeding in temporarily halting Aquino's speech.

Meanwhile, MIGRANTE-Europe led a protest picket on September 16 in Belgium that was attended by members of Ugnayang Pilipino sa Belgium, International Coalition for Human Rights in the Philippines and INTAL, a Belgian solidarity organization. Some of their placards read "BS Aquino human rights violator," "Aquino king of thieves" and "Keep off disaster funds!" AB

Resistance to military abuses in Northern Samar

Residents of Lope de Vega and Las Navas in Northern Samar are up in arms against successive military abuses in their towns.

In September, up to 100 village council officers and leaders of Alyansa han mga Parag-uma Kontra Kakablasan ha Las Navas submitted a petition to the local government containing a resolution against continuing military operations in their town which have severely affected peace and order and the peasants' livelihoods.

On the other hand, barangay officials of Pagite, Lope de Vega met directly with the local government and the media to complain about military operations in their area which have endangered residents.

In Barangay Pagite, soldiers

strafed the subvillages of New Sumuroy and Ginbauyan on September 28 and 29, ostensibly targeting the New People's Army. The first strafing incident triggered the evacuation of most villagers to the barrio center. On September 29, however, two attack helicopters strafed the environs of New Sumuroy, forcing the remaining villagers to leave.

As a result, residents of Barangay Pagite are afraid to return to their homes and farms. They have yet to harvest their rice crops, which have begun to rot in the fields. The villagers have been living at the barrio center and subsisting on aid from the local government and humanitarian groups.

Meanwhile, in Las Navas, one of the latest victims of mili-

tary atrocity was Nelson Mercader, a town councilor who was killed by suspected elements of the 34th IB on August 5 for opposing militarization.

Since August 23, soldiers from the 83rd CMO Coy have also been forcing residents who want to leave Barrio Osang, Las Navas to sign a logbook, which states that "should anything bad happen to the soldiers, the barrio residents will be held accountable." The villagers have thus been too afraid to attend to their farms, worsening the hun-

ger now spreading in Northern Samar in the aftermath of typhoon Glenda.

Earlier, on August 19, elements of the 34th IB intimidated and threatened Raul Durin, a barangay treasurer from Las Navas. Soldiers went to his house and accused him of supporting the revolutionary movement two days after a successful NPA military action in Barangay Imelda where at least three soldiers were killed and several others wounded. **AB**

Peasant killed in Sorsogon

A peasant was killed in Sorsogon while a farmer-leader survived an attack in Tagum City.

Sorsogon. Elements of the 31st IB forced their way into the house of farmer Josefina Garote in Upper San Jose, Bulusan and gunned down her relative Jestoni Garote. Wounded in the shooting was another farmer, Efren Galve. The troopers also arrested Jaypee Garote and Leo Firmannes. KARAPATAN-Sorsogon reported that the military accused the victims of being members of the New People's Army after an encounter between Red fighters and the AFP in the area.

Tagum City. Peasant leader Dexter Ian Selebrado, 31, was wounded in an ambush perpetrated by suspected military agents. Two men aboard a motorcycle shot him near Fatima Parish, 3rd Avenue. He is now in critical condition after sustaining gunshot wounds to the nape and upper pelvic area.

Selebrado had just come from the Inter-Provincial Forum on the People's Initiative to Abolish Pork Barrel in Tagum City when he was blocked and shot by two men.

He is a firm advocate of peasant and Lumad rights, and is also an organizer of Karadyawan, a local peasant group affiliated with the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas. **AB**

Political prisoner dies in detention in Samar

A political prisoner died of severe illness after state authorities neglected to provide her with regular medical attention. Nila "Ka Edna" Montes, 57, a Party cadre in Eastern Visayas died on August 15 while in detention in Guiuan, Samar. She was arrested by the military in Guiuan on July 4, 2013 while on the way to her doctor for a check-up for a kidney and liver ailment.

Born in Sta. Margarita, Northern Samar, Ka Edna was a college student in Manila when she was organized as an activist during the Marcos dictatorship.

Ka Edna made major contributions to the advance of people's war in Eastern Visayas. First assigned to the Political Department of the region's NPA battalion, comrades admired her for the example she set in remolding and facing sacrifices and personal trials.

She took it hard when her husband was killed in a gunbattle. Nonetheless, she strove to overcome her loss and performed tasks in regional propaganda and edu-

cation in the early 1990s. She was one of the anchors of the revolutionary program Radyo Katalwasan (Radio Liberation) aired over VHF radios.

During the Second Great Rectification Movement, she was one of the comrades who assiduously ensured the reproduction and distribution of rectification documents.

In 1996, she took on the challenge of recovery work in Southern Leyte, facing an extremely difficult situation since the deviations from the correct line had grave effects on the mass base. But Ka Edna shouldered the necessary political tasks and not long after, their efforts bore fruit with the recovery of the mass base and the NPA's expansion in their area.

Because of her exemplary performance, she was appointed to the Leyte Island Party Committee in 2003 and the Provincial Committee in 2005. In 2010, she was appointed deputy secretary for education in the Southeast Samar Committee. **AB**

Yolanda victims being evicted by government

THERE are plans to evict 250 families (1,290 individuals), all victims of supertyphoon Yolanda, from their bunk houses at the Government Center Area in Candahug, Palo, Leyte and transfer them to a resettlement area in the mountainous village of Tacuranga in the same town. The plan was hatched by Palo Mayor Remedios Petilla because the Aquino regime reportedly wants to use the place currently occupied by the victims for a vigil for Pope Francis who is scheduled to visit Palo on January 17, 2015.

The victims are strongly opposed to such plans because the resettlement area is far from their children's school. There is also no water in the area which lies seven kilometers away from their present location.

Pope Francis reportedly wants to meet the victims of supertyphoon Yolanda. But the victims are being deprived of the opportunity to meet the Pope and are even a source of embarrassment for the Aquino regime. The local government has limited the number of people who would be meeting and sharing a meal with the Pope to 30–20 victims from Tacloban, five from Cebu and five from Bohol.

The victims are calling on the Catholic Church to stop their transfer to a farflung area. Members of People Surge, a coalition of supertyphoon Yolanda survivors are also calling on church authorities to allow them to meet with the Pope. **AB**

Anti-megadam national conference launched

A national conference of national minorities opposed to the construction of megadams under the US-Aquino regime's Public-Private Partnership program was held on September 24-26. The conference led by Katutubong Mamamayan ng Pilipinas (KAMP) was attended by more than 100 delegates and church people.

Among the participants were members of the Dumagat and Remontado tribes from Southern Tagalog who are opposed to the Laiban Dam. Plans for this project were first drafted under the Marcos dictatorship ostensibly to address the lack of water supply in Metro Manila. The Laiban Dam, which will primarily be built at the Kaliwa River in Tanay, Rizal and the Kanan River in Gen. Nakar, Quezon will submerge 23,000 hectares of land, mostly ancestral lands.

Successive presidents from Corazon Aquino to Gloria Arroyo failed to realize the dam's construction. In 2014, however, Benigno Aquino III pushed the construction anew. In 2011, the MWSS began charging consumers a tax to gather funds for the project.

From the Visayas came the Tumanduk who are opposing the anomaly-ridden Jalaur Dam in Iloilo.

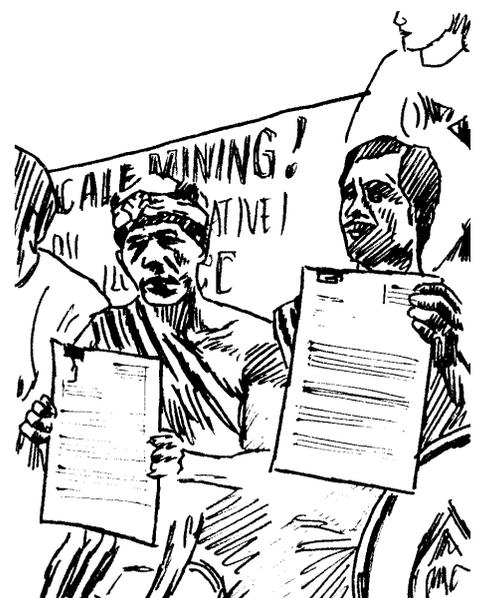
From Mindanao came minorities from Bukidnon and North Cotabato currently fighting the construction of Pulangi 5 Dam. The dam will submerge 44 communities, mostly villages of minorities. To secure the villagers' "permission," the local government and their cohorts in big business went on a widespread bribing spree.

Mangyan minorities from Mindoro also attended and recounted their ordeal with massive militarization when they resisted the construction of a dam in their area.

Likewise at the conference were tribes under the Cordillera People's Alliance (CPA). They told of the destruction of their livelihoods and culture after the construction of the Ambuklao and Binga Dams on their ancestral land. Ambuklao submerged 500 hectares of ancestral land while Binga put 150 hectares under water. Minorities living in the area lost their homes and farms. Families were separated from fellow tribespeople, thus weakening their identity. Since then, the Cordilleran peoples have continuously resisted succeeding projects like the Chico and San Roque Dams.

The experience of the Cordilleran tribes runs similar to that of the Agta and Bugkalot tribes after the construction of the Pantabangan Dam in Nueva Ecija in 1969.

There are currently 35 megadams in the country, 21 of which are found on ancestral lands of national minorities. **AB**



Protest march for the environment launched in NYC

Up to 400,000 people joined the "People's Climate March" on September 21 in New York City, one of the US' biggest cities and the center of the international monopoly capitalist system. It was the biggest mass action against environmental destruction.

The mass mobilization was endorsed by more than 1,400 environmentalist organizations, religious groups and climate justice advocates, workers' unions and delegations from various countries all over the world. Simultaneous to the New York City protest, mass actions were likewise held in 2,500 other cities and towns worldwide, including a march to Mendiola, Manila by members of Kalikasan-PNE and BAYAN.

Members of the International League of Peoples' Struggle (ILPS) and the International Action Center (IAC) composed of delegations from the US, the Philippines, Guatemala, Borneo, Mexico and other countries threatened by environmental destruction marched in New York City. There were also representatives from migrant, women's, LGBT and workers' groups as well as other organizations. The US-based National Alliance for Filipino Concerns (NAFCON), Philippine Forum, Kalikasan, AGHAM, GABRIELA-New York, Anakbayan-New Jersey and IBON International joined a political discussion held during the march.

Caused by neoliberal globalization. ILPS chair Jose Maria Sison ex-

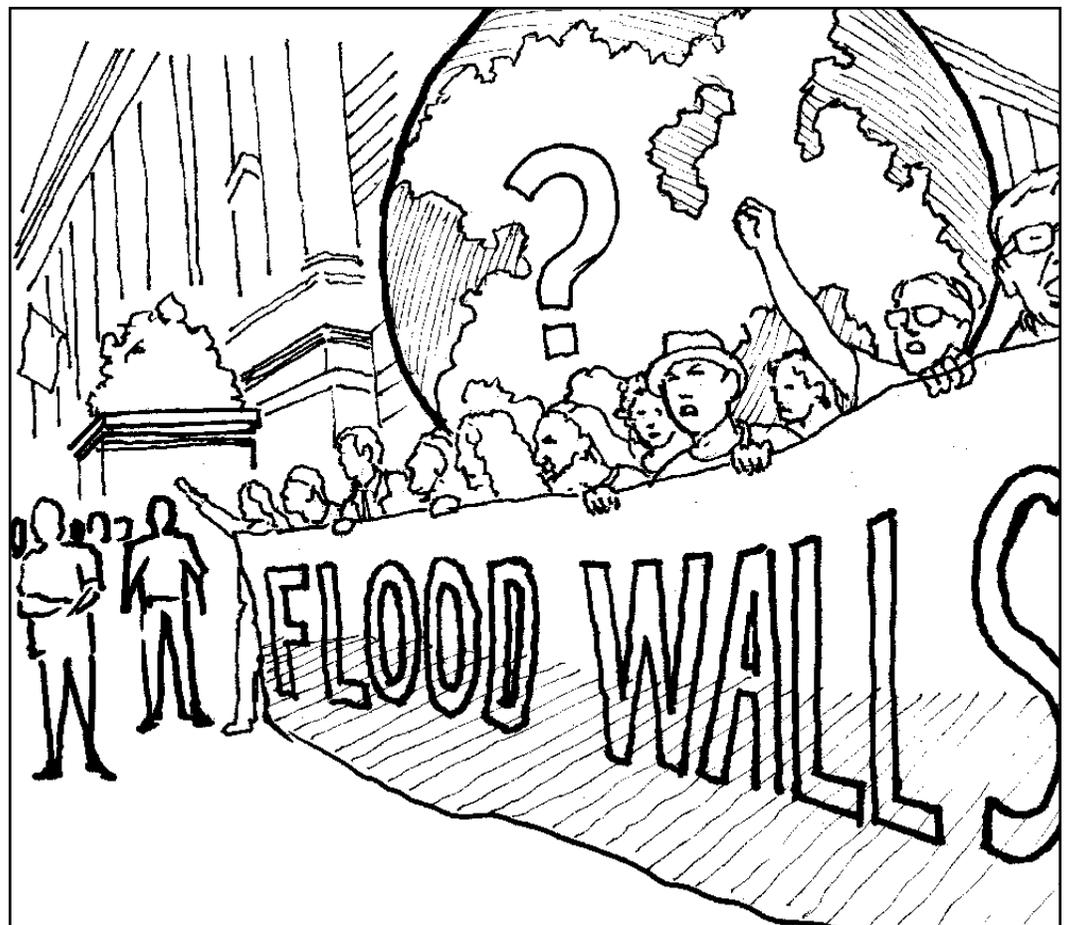
plained in his message to the People's Climate March that severe changes in climate and the increasing vulnerability of poor and developing countries is a direct result of the intense plunder and exploitation of their natural resources and of the destruction of their economies. He added that people are mired in poverty due to government policies that are either ineffective or thoroughly oblivious to the growing dangers posed by climate change.

As people challenge and resist the imperialist powers' impositions done in the name of "development," they are met

with state terrorism and imperialist wars. There are increasingly violent reprisals against social unrest, dissent and resistance all over the world, as in the Philippines, India, Turkey, Syria, Palestine, China, many countries of Africa and Latin America, and even within the imperialist heartland.

On the other hand, the monopoly capitalists continue their attempts to greenwash their moribund system. Through the UN, the World Bank formed and manages the Green Climate Fund (GFC) supposedly to address the problem of environmental destruction. But it accomplishes the opposite because the financial assistance or credit it provides to developing countries is tied to conditionalities that imperialist countries use to promote the economic policies of the US and other imperialist powers.

As in the past, efforts to reduce carbon emissions from capitalist factories and other



sources have failed. Carbon emissions are a major factor in rising global temperatures and major climatic changes such as extremely powerful and destructive storms. Carbon emission reduction advocates will never succeed as long as they avoid addressing the root cause of the environmental crisis: imperialism.

Imperialism has made underdeveloped countries as major dumping grounds for the wastes of industrial countries. It continues to support the further expansion of the fossil fuel industry, which is a major source of carbon emissions. In fact, imperialist companies are currently undertaking fracking, arctic and deep sea drilling for new oil and gas sources and laying down new pipelines in North America, Europe, Asia and Africa.

This relentless expansion of non-renewable energy production and consumption goes hand in hand with imperialist military expansionism and aggression that result in gross violations of national sovereignty and people's rights in affected areas such as the Middle East, with the US' declaration of war against the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS) being the latest example. This is in order to strengthen control over natural resources and expand economic territory.

The ILPS said that the real solution to the climate crisis now lies in the hands of the people and movements that are struggling to resist imperialist control and plunder of the world. The key is to have a strong unity and resistance at the grassroots and national level that is strengthened by solidarity among all peoples, organizations and social movements standing up against imperialism. **AB**

CPP supports Hong Kong protest actions; bares US intervention

The Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) expressed support for the continuing democratic protest actions in Hong Kong, even as it warned against intervention by US and British imperialist agents who have been fomenting disorder to weaken China.

The protest actions in Hong Kong which have been going on for two weeks involve tens of thousands of people gathering at the city's commercial and business center. Hong Kong is a territory under China. It is also one of the centers of the international financial system.

Among the protesters' demands is complete freedom to elect their leaders. At present, it is the central government of China that appoints Hong Kong's leaders. It will also be choosing the candidates for the 2017 elections.

The extent of the protest actions reflects the depth of the socio-economic crisis and the intensity of oppression suffered by the people of Hong Kong and China on the overall. The existence of the capitalist system in China is at the root of widespread unemployment and the graver oppression afflicting its workers and people.

Along with supporting the protesters' democratic aspirations, the CPP warned against intervention by US and British imperialist agents. The US State Department funds the National Endowment for Democracy (NED) and the National Democratic Institute (NDI) to expand and deepen US political, ideological and cultural influence in Hong Kong.

The US has long been main-

taining links with, and supporting, a number of the leaders of the protest actions. Others have long been receiving funds and training from the US.

The US agents likewise conspire with some of China's big capitalists. The US' strategic objective is to further push for economic liberalization in order to pave the way for the all-out entry of foreign big capitalists in China.

The CPP is confident that the students and people of Hong Kong will advance their struggle fully aware of the cunning objectives of the imperialist agents in their midst and push forward their democratic aspirations while defending their country's national sovereignty.

The CPP is cognizant of the fact that many of the people and students of Hong Kong and China are endeavoring to study and propagate revolutionary writings, especially those of Chairman Mao Zedong. They are thus able to deepen their grasp of the objective conditions of Hong Kong and China more than three decades after the currently ruling big bourgeoisie and bureaucrat capitalists' betrayal of the socialist cause in China. They likewise understand the need for revolutionary struggle and the re-establishment of the communist party. **AB**