

NPA confiscates 11 firearms in Bukidnon

THE NEW PEOPLE'S Army (NPA)-MT. Kitanglad Subregional Command of North Central Mindanao successfully disarmed Bukidnon big time usurer Estelito Marabe. Marabe was with his guards when Red fighters confronted him in Barangay Tugaya, Valencia City on September 9, at 8:30 a.m. The NPA seized one M4 rifle, a cal. 45 pistol, and VHF radio from him. The operation was the NPA's response to complaints regarding his usurious practices against SUMIFRU workers. Marabe owns the Asian Hills Bank which he uses for usury in the guise of microfinancing.

On August 25, a unit of the NPA-Eastern-Misamis Oriental-Northeastern Bukidnon Subregional Command also disarmed Datu Keke Ansihagan at Sitio Talangitog, Brgy. Eureka, Gingoog City. The NPA seized from him nine firearms (two shotguns, one each carbine, Ingram and KG9, and four cal.45 pistols). A rifle scope, six handheld radios, ammunition and other military equipment were also confiscated.

Ansihagan was employed by Gingoog Mayor Marie Guingona to facilitate the entry of the government's anti-Lumad projects such as the National Greening Program (NGP) into ancestral lands using the Certificate of Ancestral Domain Title. Because of him, falcatta (trees used for paper pulp) plantations "11 firearms..." continued on page 3



EDITORIAL

Marcos dictatorship yesterday, rising Duterte dictatorship today

What better day to unite the Filipino people against threats of a fascist dictatorship by Rodrigo Duterte than today when 45 years ago Marcos imposed martial law and founded his dictatorship?

Today, tens of thousands are set to converge in the streets of the national capital and other parts of the country to manifest the Filipino people's growing unity against political persecution, armed suppression and fascist crimes under the ruling Duterte regime.

On this occasion, the Filipino people are united in demanding justice for all the fascist crimes, corruption and puppetry under the 14-year martial law of the US-Marcos

dictatorship. They want Marcos and all his cohorts and cronies to pay for the crimes they have yet to account for. They are determined to stop the Marcoses from returning to Malacañang.

After 45 years, the Filipino people have not forgotten the bloody record, corruption and rottenness of Marcos' martial law. This collective memory has been passed on to the Filipino youth who are now one in declaring "Never Again!." They are

determined to fight the Duterte regime's threats to impose martial law nationwide and his six-month Mindanao martial law.

Today's rally shows the determination of the Filipino people to oppose Duterte's plan to replicate his idol Marcos, install himself as a fascist dictator and use absolute power to control the entire state machinery and resources for himself and his clique.

The victims of Duterte's triple fascist war are set to join the rallies. In just a year, hundreds of thousands have been directly victimized by the Oplan Tokhang "war against drugs", the all-out war under Oplan Kapayapaan and the AFP siege of Marawi and the war to suppress the armed Moro uprising.

Duterte's victims are now the most determined to hinder the vile fascist plot to put the entire country under martial law and intensify the campaigns of death and destruction. They are set to be joined

by broad sections of Philippine society, by various political parties and groups, churches, communities and so on.

Serving as backbone of the wide range of forces rising up against fascism, corruption and puppetry of the Duterte regime are the national democratic forces. The broad masses of workers, peasants, youth and students, urban poor and other oppressed sectors are all determined to resist Duterte's tyranny and hold him accountable for all the crimes, blood debt and oppression against the people.

Duterte trembles in fear at the prospect of street demonstrations snowballing into a broad movement demanding his ouster from power. The anticipated large demonstrations today will surely inspire more demonstrations in the coming weeks and months. Duterte's hundreds of thousands of victims demand their grievances be heard. Assemblies must be mounted from barangay halls to coliseums to in-

dict Duterte and express their collective anger.

Duterte threatens to use armed force to suppress the demonstrations and impede the growth of a movement demanding an end to his fascist rule. He concocts scenarios of "turmoil in the streets" to dissuade people from joining rallies. He manufactures fake stories of the "NPA joining rallies" to justify a nationwide martial law declaration.

Duterte is in a frenzy to monopolize political power and silence all those opposing his programs and policies. Through bribery and threats, he now has complete control of the AFP, PNP and the lower house of congress. He wants the Supreme Court, the Comelec and all barangays to bow to his will. He threatens anyone who refuses to march to his beat.

Duterte is pushing to establish a fascist dictatorship in the face of his political isolation, desperation to accelerate all-out liberalization of the economy and implement infrastructure projects worth hundreds of billions of pesos which his company of bureaucrat capitalists and bourgeois compradors are drooling over. He is rushing the approval of his 2018 war chest and corruption budget as well as new tax packages promised to foreign creditor banks.

Duterte has, in fact, less than five years to satiate the military officials, the bureaucrat capitalists and bourgeois compradors. Unless, of course, he succeeds in his plan to extend his term by at least eight more years by amending the constitution in the guise of "federalism."

In relentlessly pursuing his triple war, fascist repression, corruption and anti-people and pro-imperialist programs and policies, Duterte is inciting the people to strengthen and broaden their resistance with maximum energy. **AB**



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Contents

Editorial: Marcos dictatorship yesterday, rising Duterte dictatorship today	1
11 firearms confiscated in Bukidnon	1
Machinery for corruption and fascism	3
Aggressive liberalization	4
Makabayan bolts out of supermajority	4
Megarailway: anti-development	5
Revolutionary defense of ancestral land	6
The Lumads' defense	7
Extrajudicial killings rise	7
Ka Marcos Aggalao, Cordillera hero	8
Ramon Ang and SMC ravage Batangas	9
Protests towards September 21	10
Rohingya's forcible evacuation	11

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Machinery for corruption and fascism

Rodrigo Duterte of the GRP once again threatened to impose nationwide martial law in the midst of broadening ranks of people protesting his regime. Once imposed, the declaration will finally complete the set-up of the machinery for a fascist dictatorship he has always been pushing to ensure the perpetuation and possible extension of his tyranny.

Since last year, Duterte has tightened his control over several branches, institutions and agencies of the government through corruption and threats. He blatantly offered special favors to the military and police, including the appointment of retired generals and military and police officers in his cabinet and other branches of civilian bureaucracy.

One of his first Executive Orders (EO), EO 3, provides increasing the combat pay and



"11 firearms..." continued from page 1 have been laid out in almost 20,000 hectares of ancestral land, affecting 300 Lumad families. He is active in terrorizing, deceiving and blocking Lumads from farming in their land.

Meanwhile, NPA-Guerrilla Front 18, Southern Mindanao, released SPO2 George Cañete Rupinta on September 15 in Maco, Compostela Valley. He was turned over to his family and to Exodus for Justice and Peace, an organization acting as third party mediator.

Rupinta, who has been in police service for 28 years, was arrested at a checkpoint by the NPA's 6th Pulang Bagani Company on June 9 at Barangay Tagugpo, Lupon, Davao Oriental. AB

incentives for the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and Philippine National Police (PNP). He also repeatedly guaranteed them legal protection to cement their loyalty.

Like Marcos, Duterte specially favored his key security officials. Through EO 7, he empowered Secretary of National Defense Delfin Lorenzana by appointing him chairperson of the Security, Justice and Peace Cluster in his cabinet. Lorenzana is the Enrile of Marcos who serves as the primary channel of US imperialist dictates.

He also gives special privileges to current AFP chief Eduardo Año. Even as he has yet to end his term in the AFP, he has already been appointed as secretary of the Department of the Interior and Local Government with the Participative Governance Cluster under his office. Duterte's EO 18 is outright bribery, giving the AFP chief the power to approve contracts for the procurement of equipment without public bidding.

Duterte accorded himself the added privilege when he released EO 34 which gave him the authority to approve procurements not exceeding P500 million without going through public bidding.

Within the House of Representatives, he built and preserved his "supermajority" through blackmail and corruption, to ratify his orders, and to amend laws. Duterte uses the power of the national budget to bribe the house representatives with shares of the hundred-billion peso infrastructure program.

Through his "supermajority," the declaration and extension of Mindanao Martial law and tax reform were hastily approved. The fascist National ID system was also rapidly signed. They are also preparing the

passage of a Mandatory ROTC bill, amendments to the Anti-Terrorism Law and Anti-Cybercrime Act.

Meanwhile, the proposed 'Fake News' Bill in the Senate criminalizes the spreading of any news deemed as maligning the image of an individual or the regime. To tighten control of the flow of information, the PNP has denied the mass media's access to spot reports especially in relation to the killings in the name of the "war on drugs."

The local barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan elections were again suspended to ensure his control of the local government. Using public funds, the government is allotting almost P 1.4 billion to form Kilusang Pagbabago, MASA-MASID and Community Mobilization Project as machinery for propaganda, surveillance and repression of the people. The budget for Oplan Kapayapaan and War on Drugs is almost P313 billion.

Duterte is also rushing to change the constitution for federalism to enable him to monopolize political power. His minions guarantee the revision of the constitution in 2019, and to enable him to perpetuate his power until 2025.

To secure the immediate accomplishment of his plans, he is eliminating his critics one by one. He wants to oust the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and is threatening to impeach the COMELEC chairman and the Ombudsman.

He favored the release of Jinggoy Estrada and soon of Ramon 'Bong' Revilla. It is reported that they will be used as witnesses against those involved in corruption cases of the past administration to silence the politicians in the opposition and divide the anti-Duterte forces.

Duterte promised protection to all the bureaucrat capitalists who support him like what he promised the police and the military. AB

Duterte regime pushes for aggressive liberalization

The US-Duterte's pro-foreign capitalist and neoliberal bent of its economic policies has always been clear since the beginning. Its policies are designed to perpetuate the semicolonial and semifeudal economy which relies on foreign capital and oriented towards foreign needs.

Its main program, "Build, Build, Build", relies on foreign loans and is designed to profit big compradors and foreign companies. This year, the regime accelerated preparations for these companies' unhampered plunder of the nation's wealth, resources and cheap labor.

In partnership with Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, known champion of neoliberalism, Duterte pushed for the successive passage of laws and measures to completely open up the local economy to foreign ownership and plunder. These effectively subverted constitutional provisions against foreign economic ownership. In this regard, the Duterte regime is unprecedented in its puppetry to foreign monopoly capital.

Before the year ends, the regime is set to release its shortened foreign investment negative list (FINL),

an enumeration of businesses and professions banned to foreigners. In the framework of more aggressive liberalization, the NEDA plans to delist financial institutions and companies, education, telecommunication, mass media, forestry, sections of the health sector and others.

In particular, the regime plans to fully open to foreign capital the construction sector and the steel industry—fields heavily involved in its Build, Build, Build program. Instead of putting up the steel factories to serve as base for building a comprehensive economy, it will certify foreign steel factories and treat them as local companies to the detriment of Filipino production. At the same time, the regime will allow



foreign companies to fully supply materials, parts and other commodities to state-owned and controlled national and local companies, corporations and agencies. These include the most profitable projects, such as the construction of bridges, roads, airports and rails.

The regime will also fully open the public service sector, alongside its full privatization. In preparation, Congress amended this September the Public Service Act, where the ban on full foreign ownership was deliberately deleted, a provision mirrored in the reactionary constitution. Thus, foreign companies or individuals can fully own the construction, operation and distribution of public services. At the same time, the definition of a public utility was changed to any individual, company or service that provides the public with electricity, water and sewerage services. Transportation and telecommunications were deleted from the list of public utilities. Other services will need congressional approval before being deemed a public utility.

Prior to this, the regime successively enacted three orders to extend its commitments to the World Trade Organization in lowering and removal of import tariffs. This included the lowering of tariffs on agricultural products and continued rice importation of up to 800,000 metric tons. It also extended the zero-taxes on im-

Makabayan bolts out of the supermajority

MAKABAYAN FORMALLY WITHDREW on September 14 from the "supermajority" or the alliance of various parties inside Congress supporting Rodrigo Duterte. The Makabayan Bloc became part of this formation in support of Duterte's earlier promises that he will push forward the demands of the people.

In more than a year, Makabayan gave Duterte the opportunity to fulfil his promises to the people.

In its press release, seven progressive congressmen declared the withdrawal from the majority coalition because "the Duterte administration is already blatantly exposed as a fascist, pro-imperialist and anti-people regime."

Makabayan pointed out that within a year, nearly 13,000 among the impoverished have been summarily executed under the "anti-drug war" campaign of the Duterte regime.

Makabayan's withdrawal is putting into action its responsibility and principles, as pro-people and progressive lawmakers, to uphold the interests of the marginalized and oppressed sectors of society. Within and outside of congress, the group promised to rigorously oppose the fascist US-Duterte regime and hold it responsible for the widespread human rights violations and further oppression of the Filipino people.

AB

ports of capital equipment, spare parts, electronics such as cell phones and other gadgets.

At the same time, the regime is also pushing for the passage of the National Land Use Act (NLUA) where the state will recategorize land use, including agricultural and

public lands. In the past, the NEDA used this proposal to oppose then DAR Secretary Rafael Mariano's proposal to impose a ban on conversion of agricultural lands. Under the NLUA, there will be no moratorium and conversion will be allowed for non-prime agricultural

lands for housing, energy and other projects. The NLUA will also ban farming of public lands declared as forests, a measure similar to the National Greening Program which allows the planting of commercial trees in wide swaths of public lands. **AB**

The anti-people and anti-development Megarailway

Since Duterte rose to power, he has always bragged about his dream of establishing a Megarailway, the train system that will connect major cities of Luzon and Mindanao. Its main components are the North South Railway Project (NSRP), Mindanao Rail System and the Clark-Subic Rail.

There is nothing new in these projects. The NSRP was delayed during the Arroyo regime due to corruption issues while the Mindanao Rail System and the Clark-Subic Rail were among those listed in the Aquino regime's Public-Private Partnership (PPP) program. The Duterte regime changed nothing in its designs and objectives. These projects remain anti-people, anti-national and anti-development. These will bring nothing but widespread dislocation of hundreds of thousands of people and will bury the country in debt while favored compradors and foreign companies gain millions from their construction and operations.

Under the NSRP alone, more than 600,000 houses are set to be demolished in the next two years. According to the National Housing Authority, around 15,000 families will be affected from Manila to Batangas, 25,000 if extended to the Quezon Province and 500,000 if up to Bicol. Only 50,000 housing units are allocated to residents expected to be dislocated. Not included in this figure are renters and other family members living in the same house.

The majority of residents from Caloocan and Malolos who have been relocated to far-flung areas in 2008 have returned to live along the railways due to lack of jobs in relocation areas. They number 40,000 families.

Foreign capital, couched as official development assistance which are essentially loans, from Japan and China will fund the NSRP. Around P400 billion have been earmarked for the project. The railway will connect with the Subic-Clark Cargo Rail.

In Mindanao, a few compradors, foreign capitalists and landlords are set to profit from the regime's Mindanao Railway System. Companies such as the San Miguel Corporation, Metro Pacific Investments Corporation, Ayala Corporation and Megawide Construction Corporation are competing to corner the con-

tract to operate the rails. The program's first phase is the railway that will connect the towns of Tagum, Digos and Davao City. It is set to cover 340 hectares of agricultural land along the Maharlika Highway. Thousands of peasants are set to lose their lands.

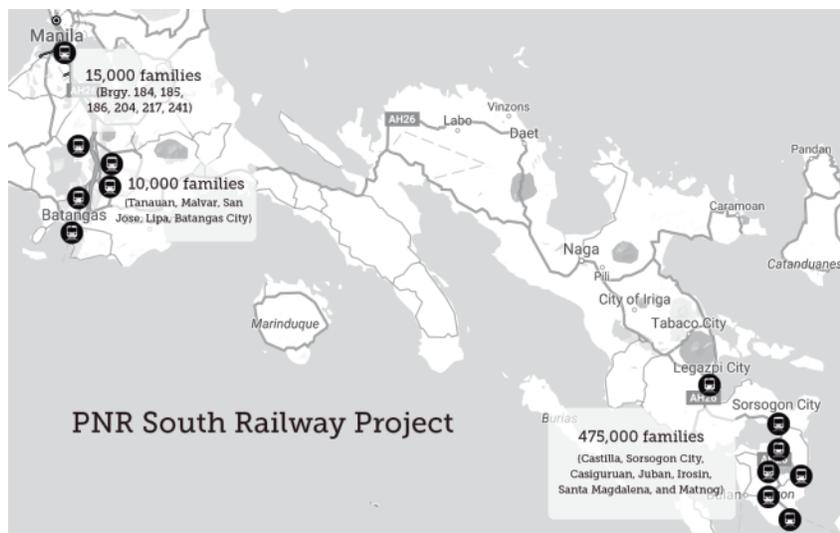
These projects are part of the regime's hyped-up 75 major projects. The majority of these projects have previously been listed under the Aquino regime's PPP program.

Thus is the future of Duterte-nomics: widespread dislocation, land grabbing and demolition of homes of millions nationwide. The people are set to shoulder the additional ODA payments and interest, profit guarantees of private operators and additional taxes. The regime has complete disregard for the people's needs, and has even reduced funds for social services.

The government has not even allocated funds for housing. The NHA only got a measly P2 billion for 2018, far from the billions needed to build houses for the homeless

which number 5.5 million. Thus, the ranks of the urban poor and landless are expected to swell under the Duterte regime.

No matter how much the regime's economic managers package and prettify its Duterte-nomics and its BBB program, it offers nothing new and will not benefit the people. **AB**



Revolutionary defense of the ancestral land

The Revolutionary Organization of Lumads (ROL) vows greater unity in waging armed struggle in the face of the ruling state's intensifying attacks against their ancestral lands. At the same time, the Lumads are united in advancing further their revolutionary tradition and culture in the face of repression. The ROL is an allied organization of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines.

Under the US-Duterte regime's Oplan Kapayapaan counterinsurgency campaign and its Mindanao martial law, attacks against Lumad communities are relentless. Duterte gave his military and police free rein to "flatten the hills" and bomb Lumad schools, and denigrated the Lumads' just struggle by claiming that the revolutionary movement is taking advantage of their situation. Killings and harassment of their leaders, as well as those suspected of being NPA supporters, persist. Militarization and bombings of their communities are also incessant.

Some Lumads, whom the AFP have incited and formed into paramilitary groups, take part in these brutalities. Some members of these groups, known as Alamara, Magahat, Bagani Force, Black Fighter, NIPAR and others, are also family relatives of those in the ROL whom the military employs to suppress their fellow Lumads. Under the "IP-centric approach" of Oplan Bayanihan and Oplan Kapayapaan, the military organizes armed Lumad groups in order to drive away their fellow Lumads who are defending the ancestral domain against the entry of logging and mining companies.

Faced with this situation, the ROL resolved to intensify armed struggle during the Conference of Resistance of revolutionary datus held last December 2016. The said conference also resolved to recognize the NPA as the only army fighting for the welfare of the Lumads; oppose the recruitment and proliferation of paramilitary groups; undertake all efforts to drive away the AFP from the ancestral domain; raise their militance

and fight encroachment in their lands by foreigners and the local ruling classes; and broaden the unity among all tribes.

In line with these resolutions, the communities enhanced their defense systems. They resolved to utilize indigenous weapons such as traps and punji sticks around the communities, and shotguns which the Lumads usually use. These are augmented with modern weapons. Military trainings are conducted for squad or platoon-sized militias. In a municipality of the people's democratic government, militia membership has reached up to one battalion.

The Lumads are likewise developing their sentry schedule to guard the communities as well as the communal farms most especially during harvest season. The residents' alertness has been heightened, and even the communities' physical setup adapted to war conditions. A committee has been formed to regularly assess the security.

Revolutionary tradition

The Lumads have a valiant revolutionary tradition in fighting the arrogation of their ancestral domain. They have a rich history of struggle and defense of their inherited lands against the plunder by foreign corporations and bourgeois compradors. Using arrows and some firearms, they were able to drive out the foreign companies and the AFP. It was decided that the *pangayaw* (tribal war) traditionally launched against an enemy tribe, will be solely directed against the AFP.

The Lumads espouse armed struggle directed against the AFP.

Their policy differs in confronting Lumad paramilitary groups. The ROL's first measure is to draw them to the revolution through relations of their families and acquaintances who are ROL members. The ROL and NPA have already recovered several communities under the paramilitaries through this method. Many former paramilitaries were revived to serve the revolution.

The development of communal farms is also a big help in winning back the support of those who were recruited into paramilitary groups. Each community allots parcels of land to produce supplementary taro, cassava, and sweet potato for the families. Some paramilitaries who were once coerced into stealing their harvest and destroying their crops have declared their wish to participate in the communal farms.

Likewise, they collectively strive to prevent the recruitment and membership of communities into paramilitaries. Neighboring communities organized under the ROL offer livestock to the said community, from chickens to horses, as peace offerings.

Another factor in winning back those who enlisted into paramilitaries are the NPA's military actions. For example, a few days following a harassment operation by the NPA against an AFP detachment, a recruiter for the Alamara sent surrender feelers.

In consonance with developing Lumad households as communities waging war in defense of their ancestral lands, the ROL likewise continuously conscripts personnel to become regular Red fighters. In one guerrilla front, they consciously recruit new Red fighters from ROL membership. They understand that in strengthening the NPA, the communities' primary force in the armed defense of their ancestral lands is likewise strengthened.

AB

Extrajudicial killings rise

The fascist military accelerated its spree of illegal arrests and civilian killings since Duterte issued his offer of monetary reward for every “rebel” presented by soldiers. After which, an apparent pattern has emerged of the AFP-reported fake encounters to make it appear that the civilians they killed are actually Red fighters.

Bicol. More than 10 civilians have been killed and three almost killed in the first half of this year within the region. The latest among these is the killing of Vincent Jaylord Vereces Pequiro, 15, who was innocently watching a basketball game in Brgy. Libertad, Cawayan, Masbate when he was gunned

down by troops of the 3rd Platoon Alpha Company, 2nd IB in September 16. Reymart Versaga, 23, was wounded in the next volley of gunfire. Both victims were residents of Barangay Libertad.

According to many witnesses, the soldiers were getting drunk at the barangay hall near the plaza

when one of their guns accidentally fired and wounded one of the soldiers. The drunk military's immediate reaction was to fire at the young Vincent followed by heavy firing at the direction of the basketball court. The next day, the military reported that they had an encounter with the NPA and Pequiro was one of the Red fighters killed.

Earlier, Alvin Oplida, 26, resident of Barangay Maalo, Juban, Sorsogon, was gunned down on September 13. Oplida was waiting for passengers for his commuter motorcycle (*habal-habal*) when four men aboard two motorcycles shot him.

Salvador "Buddy" Atienza, councilman of Barangay Trece Martirez, Casiguran, Sorsogon was shot dead by men aboard a motorcycle on September 12. He was driving his passenger tricycle at Sitio Cagdagat, Brgy. Boton when he was shot by the gunmen. He died at the hospital. Atienza has long been receiving threats from the 31st IB who accused him as an NPA supporter.

Isabela. Operating troops of the 86th IB abducted and killed brothers Ilyong and Roy Mendoza, 45 and 50 years old, while they were hunting for food in the mountains of Sitio Lumalog, Barangay Cadsalan in San Mariano on August 28, at 4:30 a.m. Three children who were with them have not been seen up to the present and are feared killed by the military. The Mendozas, poor peasants from nearby Barangay Ballao, Benito Soliven, frequently hunted for food in the said forest.

The military presented the dead brothers as Red fighters who were killed in an encounter. No encounter happened at that time and place, according to the NPA unit in the area.

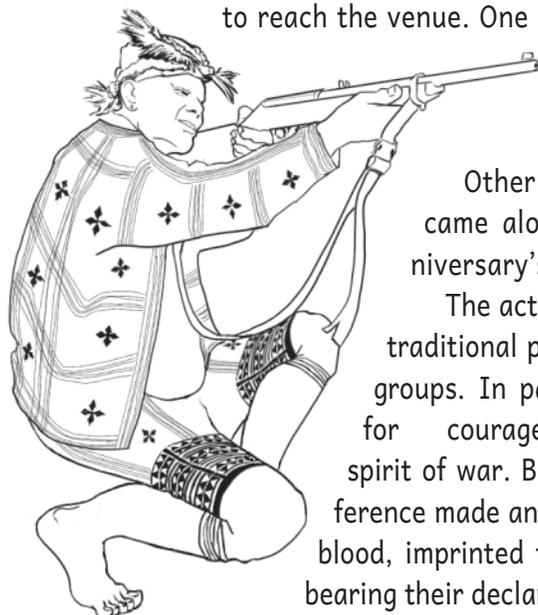
The Lumads' defense

DESPITE CONTINUOUS OPERATIONS by the AFP and its paramilitary groups, the ROL in Mindanao launched the Conference of Resistance last December 24-26, 2016. The assembly adopted the theme Assembly of Defense for Genuine Peace and Occupation of the Ancestral Land.

Around 200 revolutionary datus from different towns attended the conference. They represent Manobo communities from revolutionary committees in their areas, as well as other communities being organized by the ROL.

The two-day conference was filled with exchanges of the different communities' experiences in their struggles, indigenous cultural presentations, review of the condition of Lumads and the history of their revolutionary struggle, propositions on the revolutionization of traditions and activities, and declaration of their unity in armed struggle. On the third day, the successful conference was celebrated alongside the commemoration of the Party's 48th anniversary.

The datus who attended readily agreed to participate in the conference, even with just one week's notice, as they understood the relevance of the event. Many hiked through forest and mountain trails to reach the venue. One delegation from a particular



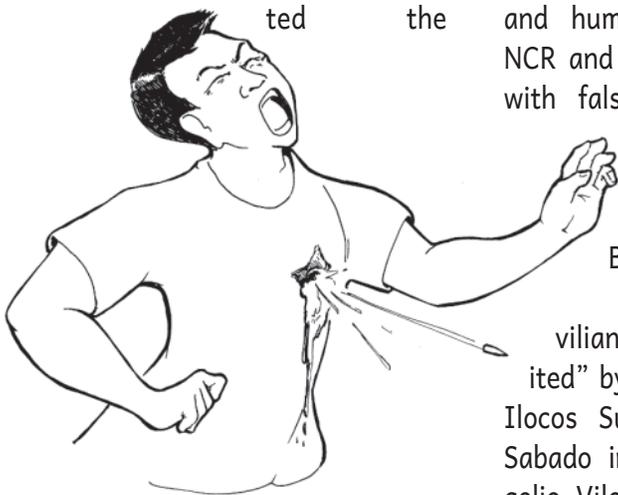
committee trekked for three days from the neighboring municipality.

Other members of their tribes came along to join in the Party anniversary's celebration.

The activity started and ended with traditional prayers from different Lumad groups. In particular, the Lumads called for courage of their revered powerful spirit of war. Before parting ways, the conference made an animal offering and with its blood, imprinted their marks on a large cloth bearing their declaration of unity.

Pangasinan. Military agents killed Anakpawis leader Lito Sagurit, 40, at Sitio Mindanao, Brgy. Pampang, San Carlos City on August 30. He was gunned down after passengers alighted from the tricycle he was driving.

Earlier, two treasure hunters and their helpers were tortured and killed by the PNP-Pangasinan in San Nicolas. Marcelo Perico, 46, and Crisologo Alambra, 60 and couple Arturo Galvez and Thelma Albano were abducted by the police on August 24. The next day, the PNP released fake news about a so-called encounter and presented the



corpses which with torture marks.

Leyte. A local peasant and member of Mag-uuma nga Nagkahi-usa, a local peasant which is based in Albueria, was seriously wounded after soldiers shot him last September 5. The victim was identified as Jason Montalla, 33, married and resident of Barangay Calanlin.

Manila. Piya Malayao of Sandugo Alliance of Moro and Indigenous Peoples was harassed by threatening phone calls on September 13. Joan Jayme of KATRIBU likewise received threatening text messages.

Ilocos Sur. Seventeen activists and human rights workers from NCR and Baguio City were slapped with false charges of frustrated murder on August 17 in connection with the fake encounter on August 4 in Barangay Mabileg, Sigay.

On August 29, three civilians were separately "visited" by groups of the 81st IB in Ilocos Sur. Councilman Leonardo Sabado in Marozo, Narvacan; Rogelio Vilog in Subadi Sur, Burgos;

and Jonolito Blaza in Lucuban, Salcedo were "visited." They were forced to sign documents allegedly to clear their names. Sabado and Blaza refused to sign while Vilog was forced to sign after soldiers threatened his family.

Blaza is an Anakbayan and Tim-puyog ti Mannalon ti Karayan Buaya member. The military accused him of being a member of the NPA unit that carried out an armed action against Phillip Morris in Sigay.

On August 20, the 24th IB harassed Shirley Ann Angiwot, provincial coordinator of Kabataan Partylist in Abra and Archbishop Sergio Uteleg of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Tuguegarao to force them to cancel their planned medical mission in Boliney, Abra.

The military accused Angiwot of being an NPA member and spread rumors that NPA fighters would join the said activity. Because of this, the church was forced to cancel the planned medical mission.

Meanwhile, another activist, Tyran Yesan, was threatened by the military. AB

Marcos Aggalao, Cordillera hero

Marcos Aggalao, 74, passed away on September 13, at 8:32 a.m. at the Intensive Care Unit of Kalinga Provincial Hospital after more than a year of imprisonment on false charges of murder and frustrated murder. The revolutionary masses and human rights advocates condemned the Duterte regime's delay to release him despite the court's dismissal of his cases.

Aggalao was illegally arrested by troops of the 50th IB in his house at Sitio Dalyagan, Barangay Gawaan, Balbalan, Kalinga on September 11, 2016. He was detained at the Kalinga Provincial Jail despite his advanced age and the fact that he was suffering from high blood pressure, ulcer and showing symptoms of dementia. This occurred while the reciprocal ceasefires of the NDFP and GRP



were still in effect. He was hospitalized on July 7 due to a stroke that paralyzed half his body. He had to be cared for by his fellow inmates who spoon-fed him and helped him with his personal needs.

He suffered another stroke on August 29, and was placed under hospital arrest. His case had been

dismissed in the Kalinga court but other trumped-up cases were subsequently filed in Baguio City.

Despite the calls of the NDFP, human rights defenders, and even though his family and friends had paid for his bail, the Duterte regime stubbornly refused to release him.

The Cordillera Peoples Alliance honored Aggalao and called him a "true hero of the people." He was a peace-pact holder of the Salegseg tribe, and part of the massive campaign against the Chico River Dam project during the time of the US-Marcos dictatorship.

In a statement, the Lejo Cawilan Command held the US-Duterte regime responsible for Aggalao's death. According to Ka Tapon Gilayab, spokesperson of LCC, "the reactionary government cold-

bloodedly shrugged its shoulders on Ka Marcos' medical needs until he died. The reactionary government denied Ka Marcos of his basic rights and did not give even the slightest consideration to his advanced age and poor health. Ka Marcos was one of the detainees whom the GRP and NDFP agreed to release during the peace negotiations because of his senior age and his serious medical situation but this was not implemented by the GRP until the latter ultimately terminated the talks.

Again, the LCC calls for the immediate release of all political prisoners especially the seniors and the ill."

The LCC also accorded highest honors to Kasamang Marcos Aggalao, who did not surrender his principles and desire for a free country. When he was arrested by the military, Aggalao had long been retired from the New People's Army.

Aggalao was known as Ka Monroe when he was a Red Fighter in the 1980s. AB

Ramon Ang and SMC ravage Batangas

Immediately after the violent demolition at the Manggahan Floodway and arrest of some urban poor defending their homes, state agents again wreaked havoc in Batangas in the service of big bourgeois comprador Ramon Ang. Ang, chairman of San Miguel Corporation (SMC) and its subsidiaries, is involved in the violent arrogation of lands within and outside the National Capital Region. He is one of the most influential bourgeois compradors who enjoy close relations with the US-Duterte regime and is involved in many projects under the regime's "Build, Build, Build" program.

Among SMC's latest brutalities are the successive killings by military elements of peasant leaders opposing the former's planned mining operations in Batangas. Gunmen aboard a Toyota Vios ambushed Lito Cassala, leader of the peasant association of Baha-Talibayog, while on his way home to Balayan on June 3. After the incident, the said vehicle drove directly to the National Power Corporation plant in the municipality of Calaca, where the camp of the 731st Combat Group and 202nd IBde is located.

This was followed by the murder of Engracio delos Reyes, 61, on September 2, 9:30 p.m., while he was eating supper inside his house in Brgy. Baha, Calatagan. Delos Reyes, vice president of Samahang Maliliit na Mangingisda at Magasaka sa Calatagan (SMMMC), was gunned down by two men who sneaked into his house. The two peasant leaders were at the forefront of the opposition to Ang's

landgrabbing for the cement mines of his company Asturias Chemical Industries in Calatagan.

At present, troops of the 730th CG PAF and 202nd IBde PA serve as hired guards of Asturias in Calatagan. The local government has not implemented any significant measure against the soldiers' illegal encampment among civilian homes.

The NPA-Batangas (Eduardo Dagli Command or EDC) strongly condemned the successive slayings in Baha and Talibayog. According to Apolinario Matienza of EDC, "The people of Baha and Talibayog have known no peace since Asturias, owned by bourgeois comprador Ramon Ang, grabbed more or less 808 hectares of land to give way to its mining project."

Asturias Mining will take over lands of those who have almost completed paying their amortizations since 1990 under the sham government land reform program. In this project, 107 peasant families will lose their land and homes in

Baha and Talibayog. The project will also affect farmers and fisher folk in 2000 hectares of public land in the sea coast. Fisher folk's livelihood will be destroyed due to the mine's pollution of the environment and the seas. Aside from the cement mine, Asturias plans to set up an industrial park and tourist resort in the area.

In 1995, Ceferino Ascue secretly sold more than 8,000 hectares of land to Asturias Industries which is under SMC. This pushed through even when peasants had already paid for more than 500 hectares of this. To facilitate the sale, the record of ownership of the peasants mysteriously "disappeared" from the office of the Register of Deeds in Batangas.

Since July 1997, Asturias Industries carried out one maneuver after another to give a legal screen for its land grabbing. It was able to get a Mineral Production Sharing Agreement (MPSA) and Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC) from the Department of Natural Resources for 2,336.8 hectares which included barangays from Baha and Talibayog to the nearby barangays of Hukay, Carlota, Paraiso, Biga, Luya and Encarnacion. The Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) Region IV Office as-

sisted the maneuver by declaring that the agricultural use of the land could not be verified, instead it was mineralized, and the 818 titles that have been distributed by the DAR to the beneficiaries who have completed their amortizations should be nullified.

Although the Provincial Agrarian Reform Adjudicator declared on September 1998 that Ascue's sale of

the land to Asturias was illegal and the latter's title must be voided, the same agency suddenly reversed its decision in 2005 at the height of the impeachment campaign against Gloria Arroyo. Doing away with the peasants' rights became part of Arroyo's package deal to get the support of the Nationalist People's Coalition (NPC). This was immediately upheld by the Supreme Court's de-

cision against the farmers. NPC was then controlled by Eduardo Cojuangco who is Ramon Ang's co-owner of SMC.

This is just one example of the barefaced subservience of the bureaucracy and the military to the interests of big bourgeois compradors against the lives and livelihood of the people, to the point of allowing the distortion of their own laws. **AB**

Successive protests against the US-Duterte regime

Consecutive protests by the toiling masses against the US-Duterte regime were launched by various groups these past two weeks, including the national minorities of Manilakbayan. They opposed the unending extrajudicial killings of civilians under the regime's triple war, pro-foreign economic policies and the threat of fascist rule in the whole nation.

September 8. The Movement Against Tyranny launched a "Black Friday Protest" against the brutal killings of minors under the "war against drugs" and all-out war. The protest started at 5:00 p.m. at the gate of Miriam College along Katipunan Avenue, Quezon City. They demanded justice for victims Kian Delos Santos and Carl Angelo Arnaz, as well as Obillo Bay-ao who was killed by a CAFGU member.

Delegates from Women Asserting and Resisting (WAR) for Peace, with members from Asia and the Pacific who were holding a forum on Thailand, participated in the protest. Sandugo members marched from the University of the Philippines towards Miriam College to join the protest.

September 11. Thousands joined the protest led by CARMMA, SELDA and Sandugo in front of the Libingan ng mga Bayani where the Marcos family was commemorating the 100th birth anniversary of dictator Ferdinand Marcos, Sr. They were blocked by the police at the cemetery's entrance.

According to Sandugo Co-chairperson Jerome Succor Abba, the Lumad national minorities will never forget the killings and landgrabbing

of their ancestral lands by the Marcos dictatorship. Likewise, Bayan Muna denounced the US-Duterte regime in allowing the burial of Marcos in the said cemetery.

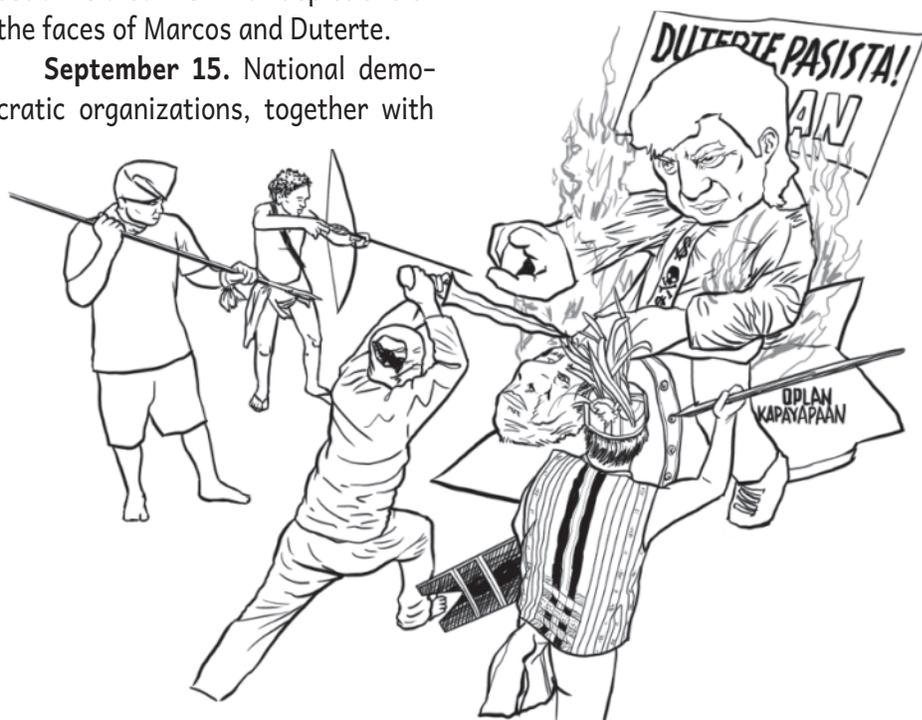
According to Bonifacio Ilagan, CARMMA spokesperson, the US-Duterte regime's reversal of history is a grave transgression against the people. Its policy of imposing martial law in Mindanao and threat of imposing martial law all over the archipelago is no different from Marcos'.

At the end of the program, they set afire a banner with depictions of the faces of Marcos and Duterte.

September 15. National democratic organizations, together with

the delegation from Sandugo, marched towards the US Embassy carrying a large banner printed with "US Imperialist No. 1 Terrorist" in commemoration of the 26th year of ousting the US military bases in the Philippines. The police blocked their way and attempted to disperse the rally before reaching the embassy.

September 16. Patriotic lawyers under the National Union of People's Lawyers launched a conference in celebration of the organization's 10th year anniversary. The conference discussed the widespread killings of civilians and members of progressive organizations, and the patriotic lawyers' determination to continue serving the Filipino people.



September 18. Karapatan-Sorsogon held a picket-protest in front of the Gubat Municipal Council to condemn the killing of civilian Sorsogonans.

In NCR, another picket was held by Manilakbayan delegates outside the offices of the Department of Energy, Aboitiz and Consunji (DMCI) to oppose energy projects that destroy their lands and livelihood.

In particular, they held the DOE responsible for its collusion with the companies Aboitiz and DMCI in their nonstop plunder and mining of the national minorities' ancestral lands which result in widespread

violations of human rights.

September 19. Karapatan, Sandugo and Kadamay marched towards the office of the Department of Justice to censure DOJ Sec. Vitaliano Aguirre for his inaction in the face of the continuing killings of innocent civilians, widespread violations of human rights, and the filing of trumped up charges against activists.

In the afternoon, Kadamay staged a protest at Mendiola bringing along with them a large Duterte effigy and placards condemning the continuing civilian killings under Oplan Tokhang and Oplan Kapayapaan, demolitions, imposi-

tion of martial law in Mindanao and attempts to impose this all over the Philippines.

Before ending the program, they burned the effigy as a symbol of the urban poor's anger.

September 20. PISTON held a vigil and lit candles at the foot of Mendiola bridge.

Meanwhile, Manilakbayan delegates continued to make university visits in Metro Manila to hold fora and discussions on the state of the national minorities. They were warmly received and supported by students of the University of Sto. Tomas, Ateneo de Manila and De La Salle University. AB

Rohingya's forcible evacuation by Myanmar

MORE THAN 430,000 Rohingyas have been forced to evacuate to neighboring Bangladesh from Myanmar's Rakhine State since October 2016 to escape Myanmar's campaigns of persecution. The government has been using Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army's (ARSA)'s attacks on 24 police station and the 552nd Light headquarters Infantry Battalion in Rakhine State to "retaliate" against the Rohingyas.

According to the United Nations (UN), thousands have died of hunger, drowning and illness while attempting to escape.

The UN stated that the military and police were involved in mass killings and gang rapes in the Northern Rakhine State. The UN and other human rights groups consider the violence as genocide of Rohingya Muslims and their condition as one of the worst.

As a race, Rohingyas do not have the right to identity under Myanmar's laws. Because of this, they are not registered as Myanmar. They are considered stateless and illegal immigrants despite having lived for centuries in the country. They are prohibited from travelling outside Rakhine District, they have no right to public education and cannot work in government. They are even denied their identity as Rohingyans and are called Bengalis.

This month alone, the burning of more than 2,625 houses in Kotanbauk, Myinlut, Kyikanpyin and 2 hospital wards in Maungtaw have been blamed by the military on ARSA. But this is the opposite to the statement of Jamal Hossain, "Our house was torched by the military... We tried to flee towards the mountain but they shot dead my two children along with their mother. I managed to escape with my other kids. The military came with 200 people to the village and started fires... All the houses in my village are already destroyed. If we go back there and the army sees us, they will shoot us." AB