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Editorial

Tasks in addressing the reactionary 2013 elections

It is the duty of the Party and the revolutionary movement to expose the reactionary elections as a bogus democratic process that forms part of the mechanisms that maintain the exploitative and oppressive system.

Reactionary elections in the Philippines are political carnivals held every three years. Their main features are politician-clowns who pose as promoters of the people's interests. They divert the people's attention from their gravest socio-economic problems and offer them false promises of reform under the ruling system.

We must thwart the US-Aquino regime's objective of using the reactionary elections to consolidate its political rule. In the face of Aquino's rapidly dwindling "popularity," he wishes to utilize the coming elections to create the impression that he still enjoys the people's broad support. Aquino intends to use the elections as a platform to propagate the illusions of a "robust economy," the "righteous path" and "good governance."

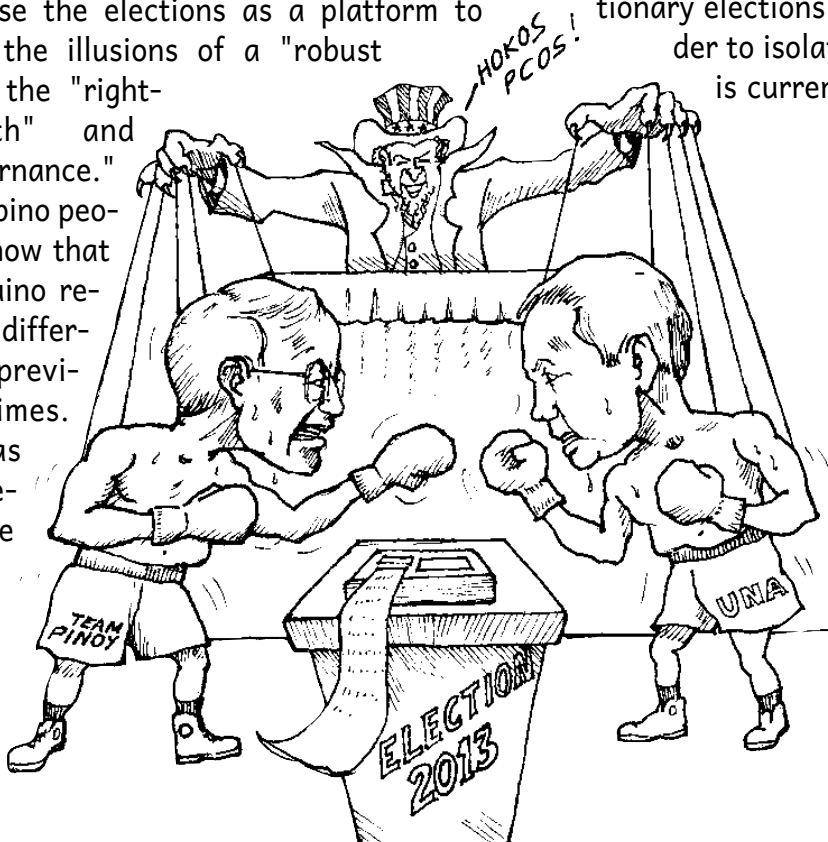
The Filipino people must show that the US-Aquino regime is no different from previous regimes. Aquino has merely replaced the corruption

of the Arroyo clique with the corruption of his relatives and cronies. His regime is relentlessly repressive and brutal despite its "peace and development" rhetoric.

The people must oppose the continuing oil price hikes and the impending power and water rate increases. They must advance their mass struggles to fight for genuine land reform, demand wage hikes, resist demolitions, the privatization of health services and the commercialization of education and other public services.

They must hold the Aquino regime accountable for its servility to IMF-WB dictates, its implementation of the policies of liberalization, privatization, deregulation and denationalization and for taking measures that favor foreign big capitalists and banks and cede the national patrimony.

We must take advantage of the period of reactionary elections to expand the united front in order to isolate the ruling Aquino clique. There is currently no major reactionary opposi-



In this issue...

**Military vents
ire on
civilians** 3

**NPA punishes
Del Monte,
Dole** 7

**CLOA
distribution,
a big
deception** 10

tion party. The two main rival parties, Team PNoy (a coalition of the Liberal Party, Nationalist People's Coalition and Nacionalista Party) and the United Nationalist Alliance (a coalition of PDP-Laban, Pwersa ng Masang Pilipino and Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino) are in close collusion in implementing the programs of the US-Aquino regime.

But underneath this collaboration are deep-seated rivalries for positions in government. These rivalries will become more marked and intense during the elections because of the contending factions' desire to place their closest allies in various government posts. The coming May elections are likewise crucial in the preparations being made by the leading political camps for the presidential elections in 2016.

As the May elections near, the rivalries will become more pronounced not only on the national level, but even more so on the local level. This opens so many opportunities for the revolutionary forces to touch base

and expand and strengthen the united front for the purpose of isolating the ruling Aquino clique and advance the programs of the revolutionary movement.

Progressive and patriotic forces are intensely involved in the coming 2013 elections. For more than a decade now, progressive parties have successfully participated in reactionary elections despite the lack of resources and the all-out fascist attacks of the military and anti-communist groups. A significant number of representatives have taken their seats in the reactionary Congress, advocating the people's national and democratic aspirations. They have been able to use their positions in Congress to resist and prevent the enactment of anti-democratic and antipeople laws. It is favorable to the people to have representatives within the reactionary Congress who supplement their mass struggles outside of Congress.

The Party encourages progressive and patriotic forces to participate in reactionary elec-

tions even if these are bogus and dominated by the power and resources of the major reactionary parties. The participation of progressive and patriotic parties in the coming elections will definitely be thoroughly opposed by agents of the US and the latter's men in the military and bureaucracy. As before, they face intimidation, violence and fraud.

Working for the victory of progressive and patriotic forces in the upcoming elections has particular significance in the face of the brewing consensus among the ruling classes to amend the reactionary 1987 constitution in order to cast aside the national patrimony and pave the way for the further liberalization of foreign investments and trade.

The placement of patriotic forces within the reactionary government can also be of use in the all-out battle against the continuing entry of American soldiers in the Philippines and US military intervention. Positions within Congress can also be used to push for the abrogation of the oil deregulation law and other policies that are onerous to the people.

The patriotic and progressive forces must also take advantage of the election period to give equal attention to expanding their ranks and launching mass education to expose the rotten reactionary system.

Simultaneously, the Party encourages the progressive and patriotic forces to thoroughly expose the bogusness of the reactionary elections and how bereft it is of genuine democracy.

In the Philippines, genuine democracy is enjoyed by the Filipino people only within the territories of the People's Democratic Government where organs of political power are es-

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<p><i>Ang Bayan</i> is published fortnightly by the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Philippines</p>	

tablished on the basis of their democratic organizations.

In areas under the jurisdiction of the People's Democratic Government, a new political system coexists with the old rotten system of the ruling classes. In these areas, the revolutionary forces may allow reactionary elections and campaigns by candidates.

The people's government must use its armed strength and political authority to oblige those participating in the reactionary elections to abide by the policies on the conduct of campaigns in order to ensure that the people's rights will not be trampled on and the masses' interests will be protected. As candidates approach revolutionary authorities to seek permission, let us take this opportunity to strengthen our unities with them on other policies and programs of the people's government.

Even as we address the reactionary elections, the Party must continue holding fast to its tasks in the people's war. We must expand and strengthen the Party, the New People's Army and the revolutionary mass organizations. The NPA must continue to seize the initiative and intensify the armed struggle. **AB**

US intervention in Philippine elections

US imperialism constantly monitors, and intervenes in, elections in the Philippines. It is crucial to the US to use elections as a means of stabilizing the ruling system and resolving conflicts among rival factions of the ruling class.

Since 1972, such conflicts have culminated in clashes outside of the electoral framework. All elections called by Marcos under martial law were slammed as zarzuelas meant to justify fascist dictatorial rule. Even after Marcos' downfall, reactionary elections failed to peacefully resolve political rivalries.

In 1986 and 2001, rival factions out of power, including their allied officers within the military and police rode on the wave of the powerful democratic mass movement and uprising against the isolated ruling regime.

The intensity of conflicts among rival factions of the ruling class mirrors the depth of crisis of the ruling system. Bringing these rivalries outside of the electoral contest shakes the ruling political system and benefits the democratic mass movement.

Thus, since the beginning of the 2000s, the US has made thoroughgoing efforts to build a consensus among the ruling classes for elections. Part of the effort was pushing for "automated elections" to create the illusion of fraud-free polls. The US funded various programs to restore the credibility of elections.

The US played a big role in Aquino's election in 2010. Days before the actual election, the US directly showed its partiality towards Aquino by having him featured on *Time* magazine. This served as a signal to the other candidates to withdraw from the fight. The day after the election, the US immediately declared that the elections were "clean" and congratulated Aquino on his victory even if the Comelec had not yet released the official results. This move silenced anyone who had plans of complaining or questioning the automated count despite much evidence of anomalies. **AB**

Military vents ire on civilians

The AFP vented its ire on civilians after the failure of its military operations against the New People's Army (NPA). The latest cases involved two extrajudicial killings in Albay on February 11 and 12.

In Albay. Fascist troops of the 2nd IB abducted and killed farmer Dalmasio dela Puente Jr. on the morning of February 12 in Sitio Divisoria, Barangay Tobgon, Oas town. Hours before this, the military shot to death Romero Octavo, a 36-year old farmer from Pioduran town.

Dela Punta was taken from his house at around 9 a.m. After bringing him to the village chief's house, he was killed by the military near the center of Barangay Tobgon shortly after 10 a.m. The 2nd IB was then in the company of troops from Force 5 of the PNP Regional Public Safety Battalion.

NDF-Bicol spokesperson Gregorio "Ka Greg" Bañares said the soldiers vented their anger on Dela Puente after a failed siege on an NPA squad that day in Barangay Tobgon. Four soldiers were seriously wounded in the gunbattle after being hit by a command-detonated explosive. The military claimed that Dela Punta was an NPA casualty.

In Barangay Sukip, Pioduran, a ten-man troop from the 2nd IB seized Octavo while he was at a dance on February 11, at around 1 a.m. The soldiers

wore ski masks and were armed with rifles. Some of them were aboard motorcycles. After bringing him out of the dance floor, Octavo was beaten up and killed.

The military quickly washed its hands of any responsibility for Octavo's death, but 2nd IB chief Lt. Col. Andrew Costela insisted that he was an NPA guerrilla.

In Bukidnon. Four Lumad civilians were illegally arrested and six houses were burned down by 8th IB troops in Salumayag and Kasilaan subvillages in Barangay Halapitan, San Fernando town on February 2 and 4. These acts of violence were perpetrated by the soldiers after NPA Red fighters thwarted the onslaught of military and paramilitary forces in the area.

The military illegally arrested Totot and Sayapo Maganyo and another Lumad under Datu Mantulisan on February 2. After planting firearms on their persons, 8th IB officials branded the victims as Red fighters who had surrendered to the military.

Soldiers arbitrarily arrested Balangas Anglangit of Sitio Salumayag on February 4. Anglangit was then stripping abaca with his two sons aged 12 and 16 years near the river in Sitio Kala-Kala. The military trained their guns at the two children, but they managed to run while the fascists were tying up their father. The children likewise witnessed the 8th IB troops torching six houses by the riverside.

On February 7, Balangas' relatives and neighbors went to the police station in San Fernando town to look for him, but the policemen said Ba-

langas could not be taken out of his jail cell. He has not been surfaced to date.

Meanwhile, military forces hamletted Salumayag and Kasilaan where more than a hundred Matigsalog Lumad reside. They were barred from leaving their communities to tend to their farms and look for food. This has worsened hunger among the residents who were already suffering from lack of food.

Lt. Froilan Viamos, 8th IB spokesperson, haughtily admitted that they were indeed preventing the residents from going to their farms. He added contemptuously that the residents have had to make do with the little assistance provided by the San Fernando local government.

In Abra. Four peasants, all residents of Barangay Kayapa, Lagangilang were arrested and detained from January 30 to February 2 after a fire-fight between the 41st IB and a unit under the Propicio Tauro Front under the NPA-Abra, in Sitio Manipit, Kayapa on the morning of January 30.

At least two soldiers were brought to hospital after the gunbattle. There were no casualties on the NPA side, but radio news reports claimed that the NPA suffered four casualties.

The military captured Anacleto "Killito" Tugade, Ceferino "Boying" Poclani (a barangay councilor), Jemmy "Esmie" Bageng and Bonifacio "Pasio" Bagang. They left the village as a group to look for honey.

The four farmers were released after four days. Before their release, they were warned by the military not to tell anyone about their ordeal. **AB**

Harassment of NDFP consultants, staff assailed

The continuation of the peace negotiations between the Government of the Philippines and the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) is now in jeopardy after incidents of harassment against the latter's consultants and staff.

On the night of February 9, Rose Tumbagahon, a member of the NDFP Nominated Section of the Joint Secretariat (JS) was held up while she was aboard a passenger jeep along Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City. The assailants aimed a gun at her and seized her papers and bag containing her keys to the JS office, her cellphone and USB flash drives. Tumbagahon was clearly the target, because none of the other passengers was robbed.

On the same night, NDFP consultant Rey Claro Casambre came home to find his residence ransacked. His door lock had been broken and his lap-

top computers and an old USB flash drive taken. Casambre was also robbed of some cash.

Months before this, NDFP Legal Consultant Atty. Rachel Pastores' house was broken into in September 2012. Taken were her laptop computer and USB flash drives. Pastores was then at the burial of Atty. Romeo Capulong, NDFP Chief Legal Counsel.

The NDFP considers these incidents as AFP intelligence operations especially since most of the items taken were USB flash drives which are expensive, but may contain information sought by the military.

As members of the NDFP Negotiating Panel, both Pastores and Casambre are covered by the Joint Agreement on Safety and Immunity Guarantees (JASIG). Tumbagahon, on the other hand, bears a Document of Identification as a member of the NDFP-Nominated Section of the JS. **AB**

Another Capion killed in Davao del Sur

Three months after the 27th IB massacred anti-mining activist Juvy Capion and two of her children in Davao del Sur, her brother-in-law Kitari Capion was likewise killed by operating troops of the 27th and 39th IB on January 29.

Kitari is the younger brother of Daguil Capion, Juvy's husband. Daguil and Kitari are both known to be leaders of "Red pangayaw," an armed movement launched by the B'laan tribe against the destructive and violent operations of Xstrata-Sagittarius Mining Corporation on their ancestral land.

Kitari was hit in the back when soldiers rained bullets on his house. He was brought to a hospital in South Cotabato but he died from loss of blood.

Some 150 residents of Barangay Kimlawis, Kib-

lawan, Davao del Sur were forced to flee on February 1 after Kitari was killed.

Minority groups and human rights advocates strongly condemned Kitari's murder and the ensuing harassment of B'laan communities. They called for the immediate withdrawal from their communities of Task Force KITACOM (Kiblawan, Tampakan, Columbio, Malungon). The Task Force, which is composed of the 27th and 39th IB as well as CAFGU elements was formed to provide protection to the foreign-owned Xstrata-Sagittarius company.

The elements of the 27th IB responsible for the massacre of the Capion family last October have not been charged to date. **AB**

Intense militarization in Albay

The widespread and intense militarization of Albay is one of the main forms of Oplan Bayanihan (OPB) in Bicol. The military's main objective is to crush the revolutionary movement in the province. The AFP boastfully claims that it is already at the consolidation stage in its effort to neutralize the revolutionary movement in the area. Nonetheless, these claims are belied by sustained resistance in the affected communities and the continuing operations of the New People's Army not only in Albay, but in the entire region.

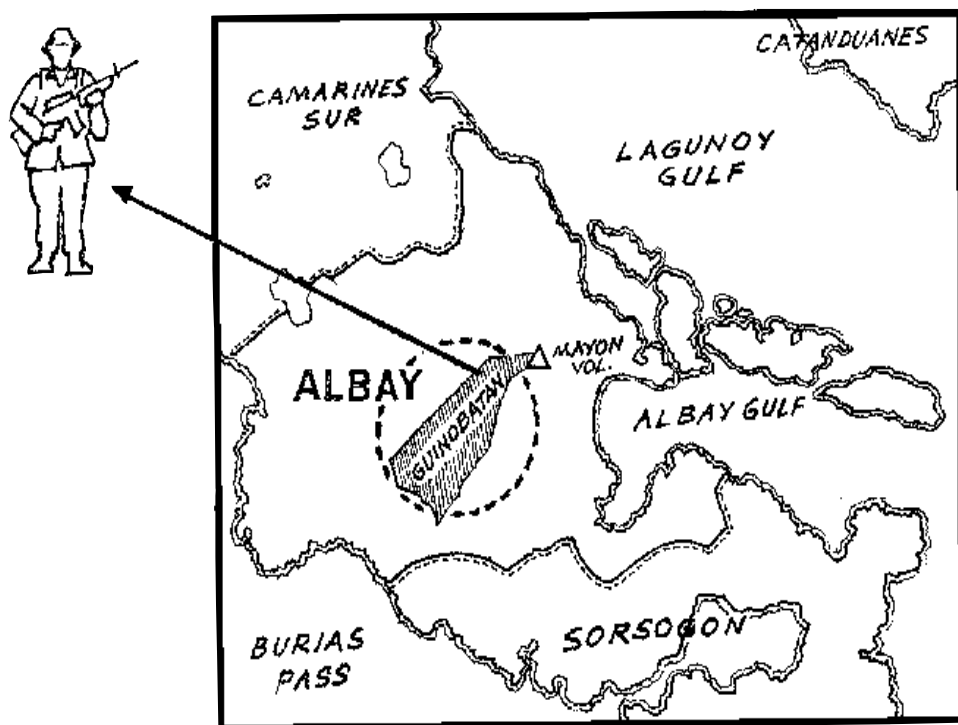
Since 2002, Albay has been one of the most militarized areas in the region. Operations of

Reengineered Special Operations Teams (RSOT) have been conducted in quick succession,

especially in the second district. The military reached its peak deployment in 2005, when 3,000 soldiers and CAFGU elements were poured into the province. In 2008, there were eight clusters of widespread SOT operations. The enemy concentration eased up a bit only in 2009, when soldiers deployed in Albay provided security to the Balikatan joint military exercises. After the Balikatan, RSOT operations resumed in the second district.

From June 2011 up to the present, operations of Peace and Development Teams (PDT, the new name for the RSOT) have been concentrated in 11 barrios of Guinobatan. The operations have also spilled over to two other barrios plus two villages in Jovellar town. The AFP has likewise set up detachments outside five Guinobatan villages (Ongo, Cabaluaon, Batbat, Bololo and Sinungtan).

Outside of the areas covered by the PDT, the AFP has been



implementing blockhouse warfare in a cluster of barangays. Blockhouse tactics involve the construction of several Philippine Army and CAFGU detachments close to each other. These forces guard the Southern Luzon International Airport being constructed, as well as other main eco-tourism projects and subdivision lands.

The 2nd IB has incurred a long list of human rights violations in the villages of Guinobatan where its PDT operations have been conducted. Among the most heinous crimes of the 2nd IB is the murder of Ely Oguis, a councilor of Barangay Cabaluaon, Guinobatan who was beheaded and whose ears were lopped off. The military had earlier killed Dante Osma, a civilian from Barangay Sinungtan, Guinobatan. In Ligao City, CAFGU elements shot to death civilian Sara Jane Yuson in Barangay Oma-Oma on January 2.

Destroying the people's gains

Psywar and terrorism are being systematically conducted in communities to deceive the people and instill fear among them. This involves, among others, branding peasants as NPA supporters to justify the military's widespread violations of their rights.

One of the most highlighted tactics of the PDTs is the use of programs of the civilian bureaucracy

to hoodwink the people and wreak havoc on their unity. In one example, the military connived with the Department of Agrarian Reform in implementing the bogus Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program Extension with Reforms or CARPER. The soldiers claimed to be distributing land through a new survey and by giving out pieces of paper, even as they evicted farmers from the hacienda lands they have long been tilling. The military was in fact sabotaging the gains achieved by the farmers in decades of antifeudal struggle.

Continuing resistance

The Albay peasants' unity is founded on their brilliant history of agrarian struggle. Since the 1980s, the peasants have collectively struggled for their right to till the vast estates. Amid the military's repressiveness and terrorism, the peasants have been exerting efforts to defend their gains. They are aware that genuine land reform cannot be achieved under CARPER, and definitely not under OPB.

In the face of intensified militarization, the people of Albay have launched a series of anti-militarization struggles.

The NPA simultaneously perseveres to defend the people and punish the AFP for its viciousness towards the masses. AB

NPA thwarts 3 encirclement operations in Bicol

Red fighters in Bicol have overcome three military attacks, killing three soldiers and wounding at least four others. There were no casualties on the side of the Red fighters, said National Democratic Front-Bicol spokesperson Gregorio "Ka Greg" Bañares.

In Oas town, Albay, an NPA squad thwarted an attempt by a platoon of the butcher 2nd IB and Force 5 of the Regional Public Safety Battalion to encircle it in Sitio Divisoria, Barangay Tubgon on February 12. The military troops were paralyzed after being hit by a command-detonated explosive. Four AFP soldiers were wounded.

In Labo town, Camarines Norte, a 25-man platoon of the 49th IB tried to encircle a platoon under the NPA Armando Catapia Command that was temporarily encamped at Sitio Palale,

Barangay Exciban on February 10. Two soldiers were killed and several were wounded.

In Ligao City, Albay, a team of Red fighters under the Santos Binamera Command beat to the draw a squad under the 2nd IB that was out to encircle them in Sitio Cogon, Barangay Tapaz on February 8. A soldier was killed in this fire-fight.

Meanwhile, an NPA squad ambushed a squad under the 42nd IB in Sitio Colacog, Barangay Cabadisan, Ragay, Camarines Sur on January 29, killing a CAFGU element and wounding two soldiers.

In Masbate, a soldier was killed in a sniping operation by the NPA Jose Rapsing Command against troops of the 9th IB and PNP Regional Public Safety Battalion in Barangay Cantorna, Monreal in Ticao island on January 26. AB

25 8th IB troops killed in Bukidnon

Twenty-five soldiers were killed and several others wounded, including two junior officers after five successive gunbattles between Red fighters of the New People's Army (NPA) and the Philippine Army 8th IB in Barangay Halapitan, San Fernando, Bukidnon from January 19 to February 2.

A Red fighter valiantly sacrificed his life and another guerilla was wounded in these fire-fights, according to a statement from the NPA South Central Bukidnon-Sub-Regional Command (SCB-SRC).

Following is an account of these gunbattles. These fire-fights prove the Red fighters' superior knowledge of the local terrain.

January 19. An NPA reconnaissance team encounters patrolling troops of the 8th IB at around 9 a.m. in Sitio Kasilaan. A soldier is killed and two others wounded, while a people's guerilla is wounded.

January 22. An NPA unit uses a command-detonated explosive (CDX) against a 24-man platoon under the 8th IB along the border of Sitio Salumayag and Sitio Kasilaan in the same barangay. Seven soldiers are killed on the spot while an unde-

terminated number are wounded.

February 1. An NPA squad figures in a skirmish with a platoon of soldiers in Sitio Salumayag. Three soldiers are killed and several others wounded. The NPA squad, on the other hand, is able to make a safe retreat.

In a separate incident, a platoon under the 8th IB is practically wiped out after the NPA detonates a CDX in Sitio Salumayag. Eight dead soldiers are seen being loaded on a dumptruck and ten are wounded.

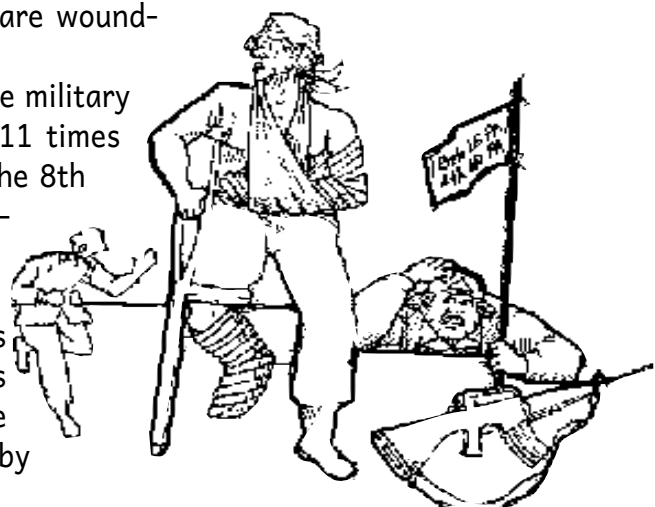
In retaliation, the military bombards the area 11 times with artillery fire. The 8th IB also sends in reinforcements.

February 2. Twenty-five soldiers newly brought in as reinforcements are met with gunfire by

the NPA. The firefight, which takes place at around 10 a.m., results in the death of six soldiers. A Red fighter is killed. After the gunbattle, the military unleashes ten rounds of artillery fire.

To cover up the series of losses by the reactionary troops, the AFP spins lies about multiple NPA deaths, including those of "Commanders Alab, Jigger and Raya."

The claims are denied by the SCB-SRC. In a statement, the SCB-SRC declares that "This series of tactical offensives are but the opening salvo this year for the further intensification of people's war." **AB**



NPA metes punishment on Del Monte and Dole

The New People's Army Mt. Kitanglad Command of the North Central Mindanao Region meted punishment on the Del Monte and Dole-Stanfilco companies through coordinated and simultaneous raids at around 6 p.m. of February 19.

The NPA attacked the motor pool and administration building at Del Monte Philippines' Camp Phillips in Manolo Fortich, Bukidnon and the Del Monte satellite camp in Villavista, Sumilao, Bukidnon; and was able to seize weapons from armed guards of Dole-Stanfilco's La Fortuna Plantation in La Fortuna, Impasug-ong, Bukidnon. According to initial reports from the NPA field operations command, nine big pieces of machinery, two warehouses and an office at the satellite camp in Villavista were destroyed. The NPA confiscated 19 firearms

of various caliber, aside from several computers. Some of the seized firearms came from elements of the PNP in Manolo Fortich town who were blocked by Red fighters while they were on the way to Camp Phillips. A security guard was killed and two others were wounded when they resisted. The guards were all under the Kadre Security Agency, which is owned by Pastor Al-

cover, one of Gen. Jovito Palparan's minions.

The simultaneous and coordinated military operation constitutes direct action by the revolutionary movement to punish these big agribusiness companies that have been exploiting and oppressing the workers, peasants and Lumad and destroying the environment. After the series of strong typhoons that devastated so many victims, the culpability of agribusiness, mining and logging companies and their environmentally destructive operations have repeatedly come to the fore.

The flash floods at the Cagayan River brought on by typhoon Sendong in December 2011 that claimed thousands of lives and caused billions of pesos worth of damage to property clearly show the extent of the current destruction of the environment in the region. The formerly lush forests of the Kitanglad and Kalatungan mountain ranges where the headwaters of the Cagayan River originate are gradually being denuded. At the foot of these mountains are found the pineapple and banana plantations of the imperialist Dole and Del Monte companies. During heavy downpours, tons of soil contaminated with toxic chemicals are washed towards the Cagayan River.

The environmental destruction wrought by pineapple plantations is comparable to that caused by mining, since the natural terrain is levelled using heavy machinery to prepare the land for planting. For every hectare planted to pineapple, 100 tons of soil is eroded annually.

In the past decade, these agribusiness companies have been competing with each other in seizing agricultural land, which is the main source of livelihood of the vast majority of the population. Del Monte, Dole and Sumifru have been the most aggressive in seizing peasants' lands planted to food crops, replacing the latter with fruit crops for export.

Del Monte has been operating in the region for close to a century. Up to the 1990s, it had 45,617 hectares planted to pineapple. The figure excludes other areas that are undeclared or nominally owned by other landlords and contract growers. It continues to purchase or lease land not only in Bukidnon, but in the towns of eastern Misamis Oriental, where it has so far accumulated 57,172 hectares.

These vast tracts of land that have been converted to plantations used to be tilled by peasants and Lumad who were evicted from their homes and deprived of their livelihood. They are powerless in the face of the company's armed guards, and more so in legal court battles. Stripped of their land, they have been forced to

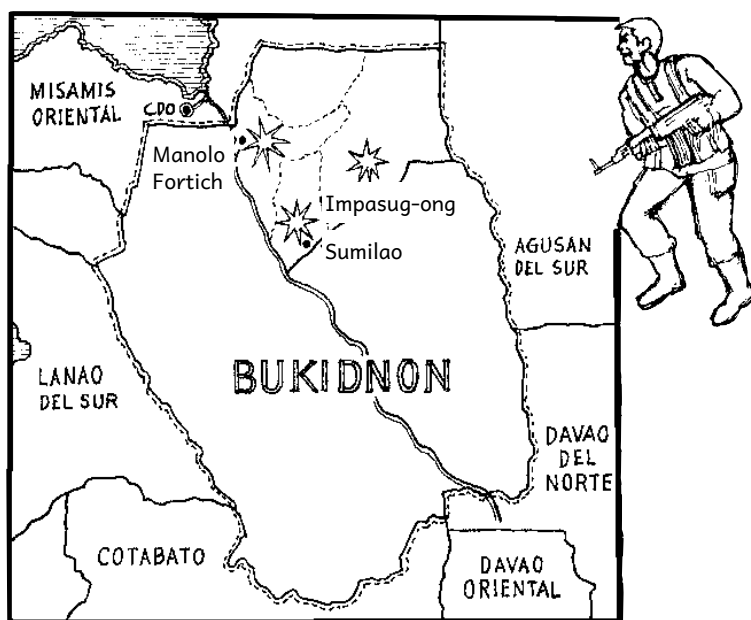
cultivate slopes along the plantations' peripheries. There have been documented cases of gastro-intestinal epidemics among these families due to their consumption of food crops planted at the plantation's periphery that have been contaminated by chemicals used by Del Monte.

In 2010, Del Monte was 82nd among the Philippines' top 1,000 corporations, with an income of P16.67 billion. While the Campos family which owns the company rakes in billions upon billions of pesos, the company's workers remain poor because of low wages and lack of benefits. They are always in danger of being terminated whenever they air their grievances, and are forced to suffer the company guards' suppression of their rights.

Dole, on the other hand, began investing in Bukidnon in the past decade. It now operates a 16,698.7-hectare plantation, 2,034 hectares of which are planted to pineapple and 16,644 hectares of which are planted to banana. In 2010, it was 39th on the list of the Philippines' top 1,000 corporations, with an income of P26.97 billion. It exploits and oppresses its workers who receive measly wages and like Del Monte's workers, labor under conditions that are hazardous to their health and are treated unjustly by management. They now have added fears of suddenly losing their jobs after Dole's purchase last year by the Itucho Corporation.

The NPA renewed its demand for these companies to put a stop to their environmentally destructive operations, landgrabbing and their exploitative and oppressive practices. They must immediately stop the expansion of their plantations. The NPA likewise warned contractors to seriously think first of the security of their businesses before they close deals with multinational agribusinesses like Del Monte and Dole.

AB



Plunder by Dolefil and Stanfilco

The avarice of foreign agribusiness companies has worsened the poverty and vulnerability of millions of poor peasants, workers and Lumad in Mindanao to calamities like typhoon Pablo. One of these foreign companies is Dole Philippines, Inc. (Dolefil).

Dolefil, the local subsidiary of Dole Foods Company, Inc., began on a 500-hectare pineapple plantation in Polomolok, South Cotabato in 1963. It now has 35,433 hectares of plantations directly under its management (21,433 hectares planted to pineapple and 14,000 hectares planted to banana). Dole Foods is a corporation owned by one of the biggest pineapple plantation, canning and packaging complexes.

Dolefil and its sister company Stanfilco currently have plantations in the provinces of South Cotabato, North Cotabato, Sarangani, Davao del Norte, Bukidnon and Compostela Valley and in General Santos City. Dolefil produces more pineapple than all of Dole's subsidiaries in the US, Costa Rica, Ecuador and Honduras combined. Its products include canned pineapple, fruit juices, fresh fruit, cutflowers, banana and asparagus that are exported to several countries.

Conditions of laborers and farm workers

Dolefil has been able to continuously expand its plantations through the help of successive reactionary regimes. Under Corazon Aquino's regime, it used CARP to maintain the status quo in its plantations through the corporatization scheme.

Dolefil used this scheme to maintain in its possession and control of lands planted to pineapple. In addition, management used this scheme to implement the systematic and widespread

termination of regular workers. Dolefil began the practice of labor flexibilization as early as 1986. From a regular workforce of 8,000, it now has only 5,000. By 2001, the majority of its workers (14,200 or 79%) were contractual.

Dolefil was able to slowly reduce the number of its regular workers by invoking various pretexts. It implemented the Voluntary Separation Program to retire other regular workers. In 2002, Dole-Stanfilco began buying banana from subcontractors and local growers in order to close down its own plants and sell them to new management. Stanfilco has been promising the soon to be terminated workers that they would be paid and has been goading them to set up cooperatives and re-apply with the company as contractuales. Through this scheme, Stanfilco has been able to avoid paying the necessary benefits. It is also an attempt to bust the unions of militant workers.

Unionism and struggle

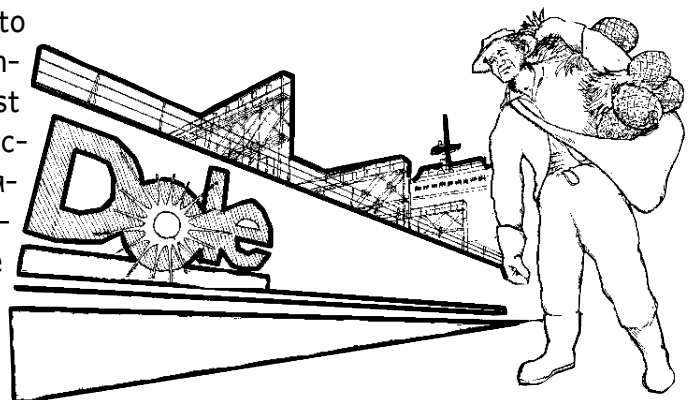
Dole's workers have been launching protest actions since the late 1960s against the company's attempts to sabotage their unions. But since most of the workers' actions were spontaneous and unorganized, they were not sustained. Under martial law, militant unions and mass organi-

zations were banned and replaced with yellow unions under the Trade Union Congress of the Philippines (TUCP) which the company was able to use to maintain the workers' docility in the face of the very low wages they were receiving.

When Marcos was overthrown, the yellow unions were replaced by genuine ones under the Kilusang Mayo Uno.

In February 2011, the management was able to manipulate the union certification election and replace the Asosasyon sa Mamumuo sa Dolefil alang sa Kalingkawasan ug Demokrasya sa Nasud (Amado Kadena-NAFLU-KMU) with the Labor-Employees Association of Dolefil, Polomolok Hourlies, a union under its control. This was the culmination of years of maneuvers, relentless harassment and suppression perpetrated by Dolefil to weaken the militant union. Militarization was also intensified in the area.

In spite of all this, the Dolefil workers have been supporting their genuine and militant union and have been exposing Dole's antiworker and fascist character in forums within and outside the country. They continue to resist the grave violations of their union rights, their right to job security and other economic rights. They remain steadfast despite the fascist suppression perpetrated by their company in connivance with the reactionary state. **AB**



CLOA distribution in Bondoc Peninsula is a big deception

The Aquino government's distribution of Certificates of Land Ownership Award (CLOA) to 952 farmers in Bondoc Peninsula in January is a big deception. It was staged merely to showcase the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program Extension with Reforms (CARPER) which has long been pushed by the counterrevolutionary Akbayan party. The Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) and the Commission on Human Rights distributed the CLOA covering 489 hectares in the towns of San Narciso, Buenavista and San Andres in Quezon province.

The CLOA is a certificate that grants peasants the right to till land that they have long been farming. It is not a title and can be revoked by the reactionary government whenever it pleases. Under the US-Aquino regime's bogus land reform program, beneficiaries are required to pay ₱235,000 per hectare for 30 years. In many cases, the CLOA has been used to legalize the reconcentration of land ownership in the hands of landlords because many farmers are unable to pay the amortization. Once they default on their payments, their CLOA are cancelled and confiscated.

The Katipunan ng Samahang Magbubukid sa Timog Katagalugan (KASAMA-TK) and its member-organization the Pinagkai-

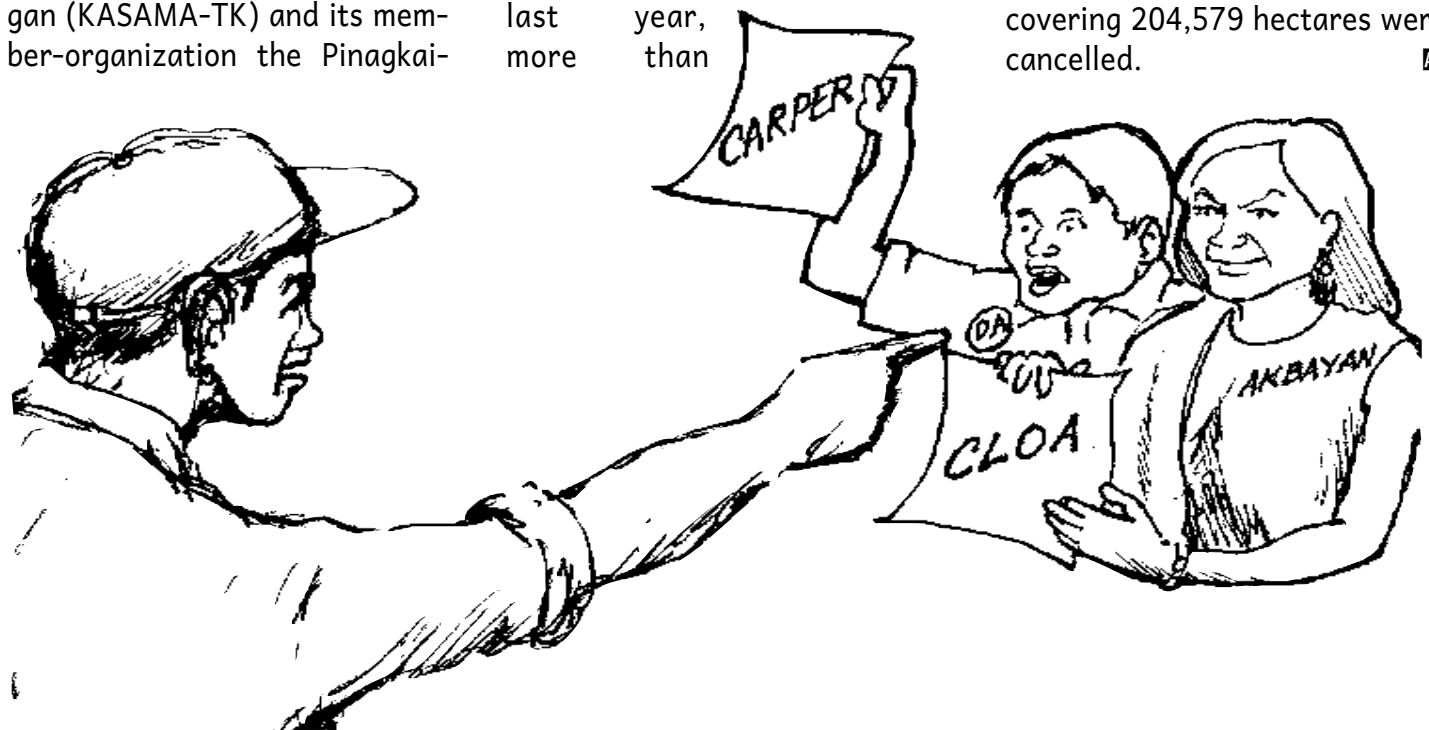
sang Lakas ng Magbubukid sa Quezon (PIGLAS) has condemned the bogus program. The CLOA distribution is likewise election-related since a number of relatives of Agriculture Secretary Proceso Alcala are running for governor, congressman and mayor in Quezon province. They need a zarzuela like this to corner the farmers' votes.

Akbayan has been mobilizing the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Bondoc Peninsula (KMBP), a bogus peasant organization it put up, to hoodwink the farmers. The KMBP has been recruiting its members from the CAFGU and joining military operations to harass farmers opposed to CARPER. Since last year, more than

eight military battalions have been deployed to the Bondoc Peninsula to wreak havoc on the peasants' livelihood. The farmers have been forced to evacuate because of the brutality of these military operations.

The CLOA cancelled and revoked by the government covering hundreds of thousands of hectares in Hacienda Looc in Nasugbu, Batangas and Hacienda Araneta in Tungkong Mangga, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan are proof that the government is not serious in distributing these vast tracts of land to the farmers. In Nueva Ecija, the DAR has been foreclosing all lands covered by CARPER under various pretexts. According to the Alyansa ng Magbubukid sa Gitnang Luzon (AMGL), productive ricefields are being expropriated for the construction of the Central Luzon Expressway (CLeX). The construction of CLeX Phase 1 from Tarlac City to Cabanatuan City will result in the eviction of farmers from the towns of Zaragosa, Aliaga and Quezon, Nueva Ecija.

In 2004, the DAR also cancelled more than 2,000 Emancipation Patents (EP) covering 380,000 hectares. In 2007, up to 5,049 EP and 103,092 CLOA covering 204,579 hectares were cancelled. AB



Women launch "One Billion Rising"

Thousands of women and their advocates danced in the streets on February 14 in solidarity with "One Billion Rising," a campaign calling for a stop to violence against women and children.

Women's groups in schools, factories, communities and even famous actresses like Monique Wilson and Angel Aquino joined the activity.

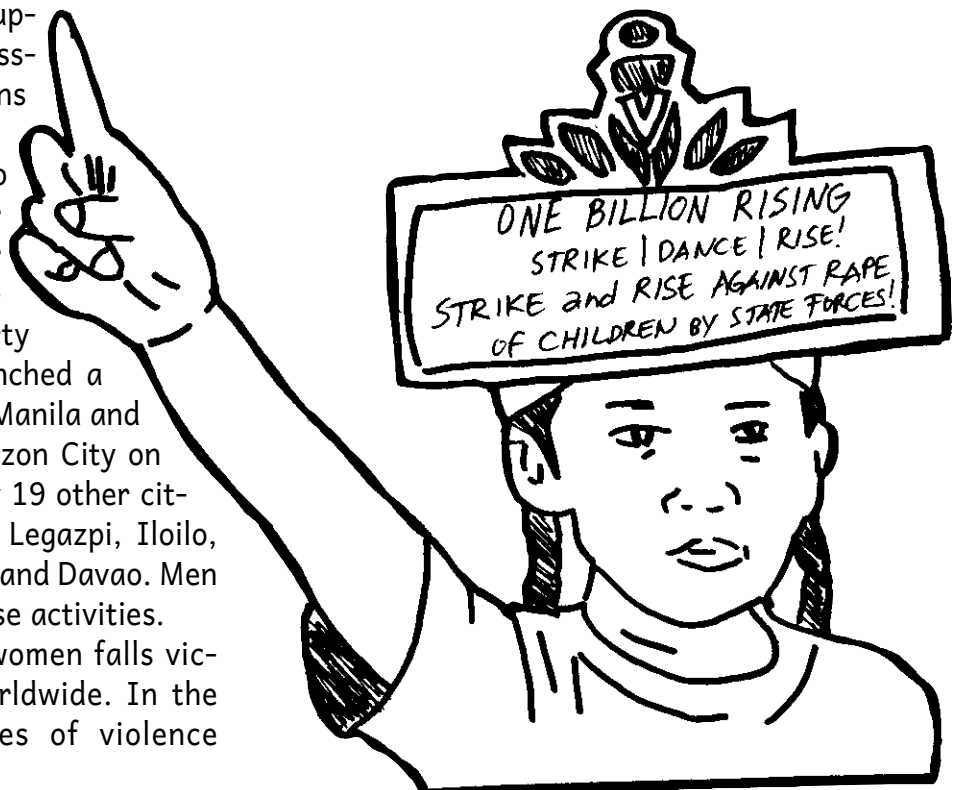
Wilson said that the Philippines, along with Australia and New Zealand were among the first countries to participate in the One Billion Rising Global Campaign. The Philippines did so before other countries and enjoyed the support of local governments, businessmen, non-government organizations and many sectors.

"One Billion Rising" was also coordinatedly launched in other areas of the country and other parts of the globe. For its part, GABRIELA, Gabriela Women's Party and the New Voice Company launched a flash mob dance on February 8 in Manila and along Tomas Morato Avenue, Quezon City on February 14. This was followed by 19 other cities and towns like Baguio, Naga, Legazpi, Iloilo, Kalibo, Bacolod, Dumaguete, Cebu and Davao. Men and children likewise joined in these activities.

GABRIELA said one in three women falls victim to violence every minute worldwide. In the Philippines, more than 30 cases of violence

against women are documented daily. Most of these cases involve rape, human trafficking, beatings and discrimination. GABRIELA added that women are also victims of worsening unemployment, hunger, demolition and militarization in the country.

"One Billion Rising" also stated that beyond the issues involving women, US violations of the country's sovereignty, continuing poverty and injustice and rising prices of commodities and services must also be resisted. AB



Environmental groups demand closure of Antique mine

The Kalikasan-People's Network for the Environment (PNE) demanded the closure of the Semirara Mining Corporation (SMC) on the island barangay of Semirara in Caluya town, Antique where 13 miners were buried in a landslide on February 13. Only five bodies have so far been recovered.

Kalikasan-PNE said that SMC's permit to operate must be cancelled because its open-pit coal mining operations are among the most hazardous and pollution-causing practices. The environmentalist group also said that Semirara Mining Corpora-

tion must be held accountable for the deaths of its miners and the destruction of the island's environment since the late 1980s.

Kalikasan-PNE likewise belied SMC's claims that its closure would lead to a power cri-

sis in Luzon. Only a small percentage of coal is supplied by Semirara since most of the country's coal supply is imported. Luzon also has an oversupply of power.

SMC is the country's biggest coal mining company. It began its operations in the 1970s and currently covers 5,000 hectares.

About 90% of its coal is used in the production of cement and in the generation of electricity. It also mines silica and limestone in the western part of the island. It is currently managed by DMCI Holdings, Inc. which is owned by a former crony of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos.