



ANG

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

Bayan

English Edition
Vol. XLV No. 15
August 7, 2014

www.philippinerevolution.net

Editorial

Intensify tactical offensives and mass struggles to oust Aquino

Benigno Aquino III was met with one of the biggest rallies in his four-year rule during his State of the Nation Address (SONA) on July 28. The nationwide demonstrations attended by more than 60,000 people manifested a new and higher level in the struggle against the US-Aquino regime. Throughout the country, the cry in the streets was Oust Aquino!

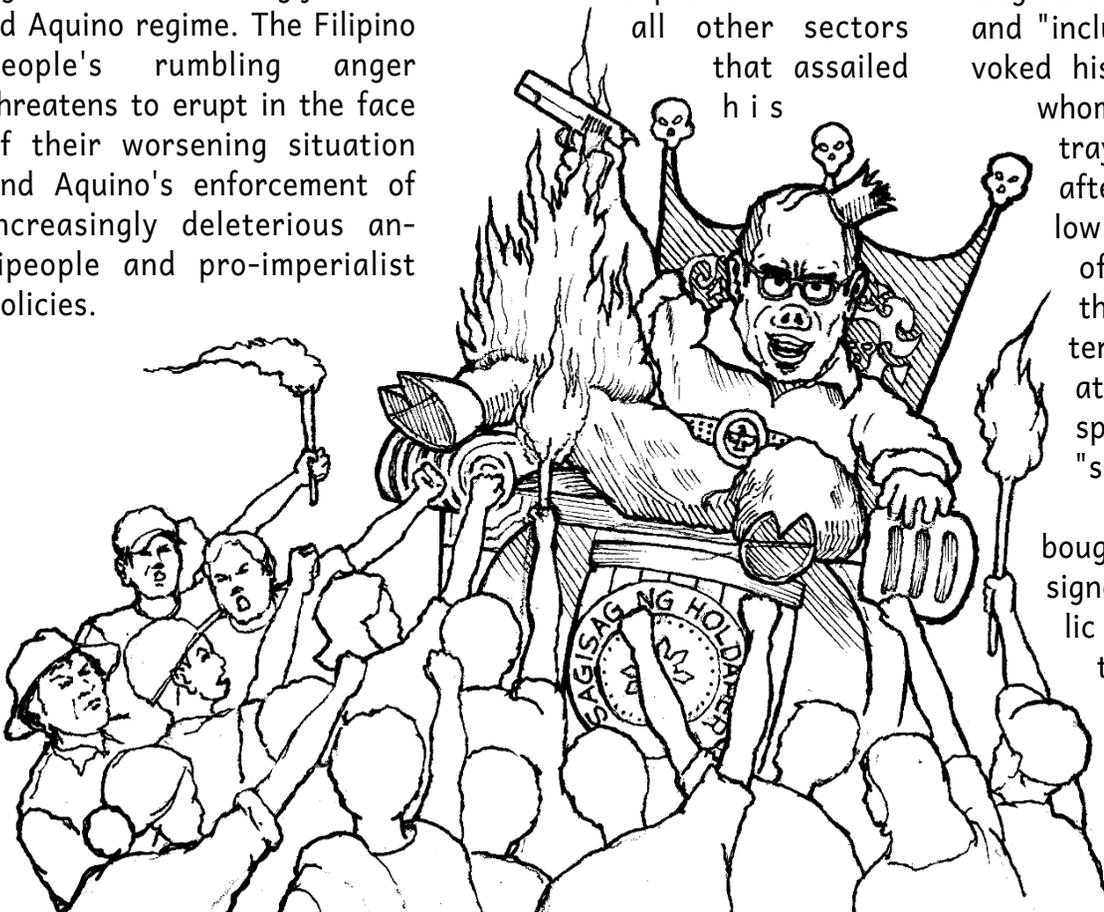
The mass actions reflected the Filipino people's growing anger at the Aquino regime's corruption and mendacity, its puppetry, treason and fascist brutality. More and more sectors are ready to take action against the increasingly isolated Aquino regime. The Filipino people's rumbling anger threatens to erupt in the face of their worsening situation and Aquino's enforcement of increasingly deleterious anti-people and pro-imperialist policies.

The ruling Aquino clique is now deathly anxious in the face of its worsening political crisis. Days before the SONA, Aquino came out on national television to spew the most biting remarks against the Supreme Court and all other sectors that assailed his

anomalous use of the nation's coffers under the DAP. He followed this up with a call to the people to wear yellow or hang and display any yellow item in the belief that he enjoys widespread public support.

Contrary to Aquino's objectives, this gambit only succeeded in fuelling the people's anger against the regime. Thus, Aquino used other tactics to court pity and sympathy. He once again employed the empty slogans of the "righteous road" and "inclusive growth." He invoked his mother and father whom he practically portrayed as saints. The day after, the Aquinos' "Yellow Army" went on the offensive and floated the idea of "one more term" for Aquino to create the illusion of widespread support by the "silent majority."

No one, however, has bought these tactics designed to manipulate public opinion. Aquino failed to hoodwink the people and derail them from the path of struggle. In a desperate attempt to conjure illusions of



change and progress, Aquino came out with one lie after another in rapid-fire fashion: that his government acted with dispatch to rescue the victims of typhoon Yolanda, that there are measures in place to provide jobs to the people, that the economy has developed and poverty reduced, that government has been cleaned up, that peace has been achieved and that criminality rates have subsided, among other prevarications.

But the illusions of change and progress being conjured by Aquino are exceedingly untenable, as it has become obvious to the Filipino people that Aquino sits on a throne atop the bureaucrat capitalist dung heap in order to use the nation's coffers and his privileges as president for the political gain of his clique, his friends, relatives and the ruling classes. Despite widespread condemnation of the pork barrel system, Aquino has fouled up the 2015 budget, designing it as a means of extending his clique's hold on

power.

It is the concrete conditions of the Filipino people that teach them the need to trod the difficult path of struggle in order to defend and advance their national and democratic aspirations. Unemployment and underemployment levels are unprecedentedly high. The majority of the people are mired in poverty. Landlessness and landgrabbing continue without letup. It is clear to the people that Aquino's claims of "development" are a big lie, pleasing only the big foreign banks and capitalists and their local big capitalist cohorts.

The freedom-loving people are enraged at Aquino's defilement of Philippine national sovereignty. His signing of the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement or EDCA which paves the way for the construction of US military bases in various parts of the country comprises the height of Aquino's puppetry.

The people hold the US government accountable for the

military support it provides the Aquino regime. The hands of Aquino, the AFP, the PNP and other coercive forces of the state are stained with blood in their suppression of the people and defense of the interests of foreign mining companies and plantations. Killings, massacres, abductions and illegal arrests, threats and abuse continue unabated. For Aquino, the peace talks are nothing but a big show.

It has become self-evident to the people that the Aquino regime is no different from previous regimes in its basic economic policies, its subservience to US imperialism and its repression of the people. The people are determined to put an end to the US-Aquino regime's rule and advance their national and democratic struggle.

A broad protest movement to oust the Aquino regime is spreading in campuses, factories, communities, markets, offices, churches and other places. The growing call for Aquino's impeachment threatens to explode in a gigantic mass movement of hundreds of thousands marching in the streets.

The Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) fully supports the intensification of people's struggles to oust the US-Aquino regime. Along with strengthening the mass movement in the countryside, the CPP directs the New People's Army (NPA) to intensify armed struggle nationwide. The NPA must continue seizing and maintaining the initiative in launching ever more tactical offensives against the state's armed forces in order to weaken it and inspire and provide greater momentum to the mass movement to oust Aquino. **AB**

	
Vol. XLV No. 15 August 7, 2014	
<p><i>Ang Bayan</i> is published in Pilipino, Bisaya, Iloko, Hiligaynon, Waray and English editions.</p> <p>It is available for downloading at the Philippine Revolution Web Central located at:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">www.philippinerevolution.org.</p> <p><i>Ang Bayan</i> welcomes contributions in the form of articles and news. Readers are likewise enjoined to send in their comments and suggestions for the betterment of our publication. You can reach us by email at:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">angbayan@yahoo.com</p>	
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<p><i>Ang Bayan</i> is published fortnightly by the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Philippines</p>	

Where did Aquino's DAP go?

How did Benigno Aquino III allocate his P144-billion pork barrel fund known as the Disbursement Acceleration Program (DAP)? Who benefited from it? A study of a list released by the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) shows that Aquino used the DAP as a huge fund to strengthen his political power as the patron of senators, congressmen and local officials.

Up to P17.3 billion was allocated to "projects requested by congressmen, local officials and government agencies" just like those funded by the PDAF. There were questionable releases of "lump sums" (funds without detailed listings of how the monies would be used) such as those allotted to "various infrastructure projects," "various priorities" and similar categories.

The releases include P2 billion for the first district of Tarlac, the province of the Aquinos and Cojuangcos, to fund the "construction and repair of roads," aside from P80 million allocated to repairing the Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway which runs through Hacienda Luisita. The same pattern was seen during the Marcos dictatorship when huge funds were poured into infrastructure projects in Ilocos Norte, the Marcoses' province.

Aquino's use of DAP funds to excessively compensate the Cojuangcos for Hacienda Luisita has also been bared. Up to P5.4 billion of DAP funds were provided to the Department of Agrarian Reform, P471.5 million of which was used to pay the Cojuangcos for Hacienda Luisita Inc. (HLI). The amount is P167 million more than what the Supreme Court stipulated, and was given to the Cojuangco-Aquino family even if the titles to the land had not yet been dis-

tributed.

On top of the allocations for Tarlac, Aquino released DAP funds estimated to be in excess of P14 billion months before the 2013 elections for roads, various other infrastructure projects, "assistance" to local governments and "counterinsurgency." The lion's share went to Iloilo (P66.2 million), Cebu (P55.3 million), Northern Samar (P50 million), Batangas (P30 million) and Davao City (P20 million). Despite its very small size, Batanes (Florencio "Butch" Abad's province) was among those that received larger shares (P11.2 million) of the DAP election funds.

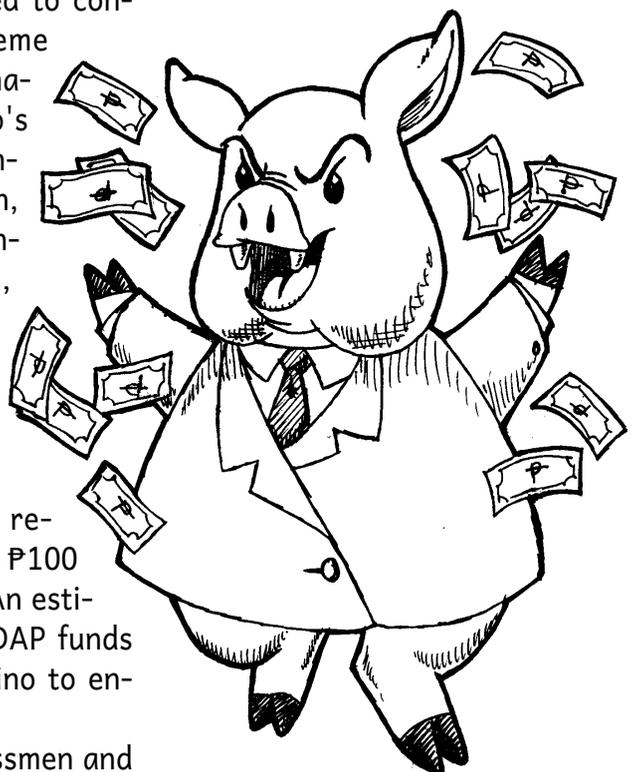
A massive one-time release of DAP funds was also made between the end of 2011 and 2012 for senators who voted to convict former Supreme Court chief justice Renato Corona. Aquino's close allies in the Senate like Franklin Drilon, Antonio Trillanes, Francis "Chiz" Escudero, Alan Peter Cayetano, Teofisto Guingona III, Sergio Osmeña III, Edgardo Angara and Francis Pangilinan received from P50 to P100 million in DAP funds. An estimated P13 billion of DAP funds were released by Aquino to ensure Corona's ouster.

Foreign big businessmen and

compradors also profited immensely when Aquino released DAP funds for projects slated to come under capitalist control. Among these are P450 million in DAP funds earmarked for the antipeople and destructive Jalaur River Multipurpose Project Phase II in Calinog, Iloilo released in Senator Drilon's name.

Also through DAP, Aquino was able to favor the foreign-owned Marubeni and Tokyo Electric Company, the powers behind Team Energy which runs a power plant in Pagbilao, Quezon. Aquino condoned Team Energy's tax liabilities to the Quezon provincial government amounting to P6.1 billion and provided a mere P1.5 billion to Quezon in exchange, P750 million of which was sourced from DAP funds.

On the other hand, Aquino allocated up to P30 billion in DAP funds to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas. The bulk of the monies is believed to have benefited big banks and companies. Less than 1% of this amount was allotted to credit for small and medium-scale enterprises. **AB**



Aquino raids, fouls up the nation's coffers

The pork barrel system is alive and well in Aquino's budget for 2015. A big portion of the budget has been earmarked to strengthening the political machinery of the Aquino clique for the 2016 elections. A very huge chunk of the budget comprises "lump sums" bereft of details, which could be used for various expenditures without prior Congressional approval. The funds could also be easily rechanneled to bogus projects and end up being part of the election kitty.

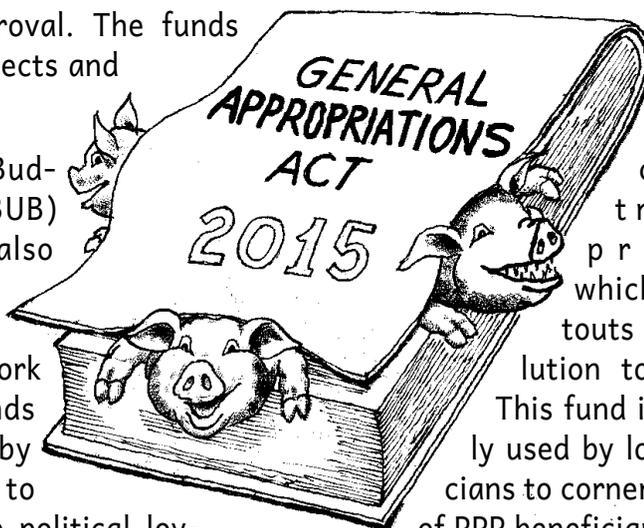
The Aquino regime's budget for 2015 comes to ₱2.606 trillion, which is more than 15% bigger (₱341 billion) than the 2014 budget. But only 67% (or ₱1.739 trillion) of the proposed General Appropriations Act of 2015 contains details that are up for scrutiny and approval by Congress.

More than ₱800 billion will not be passing through the Congressional wringer, including ₱372.683 billion automatically allotted to service interests on government debts. Also exempted from Congressional oversight are funds directly under Aquino's control, including the ₱378-billion Presidential Special Purpose Fund and the ₱123-billion Unprogrammed Expenditures. A total of ₱389 billion has also been allocated for Internal Revenue Allotment (IRA).

Up to ₱21 billion of the entire ₱25 billion formerly allotted to the PDAF in 2014 has been incorporated in Aquino's budget for 2015. The previous allocations had been cancelled after the Supreme Court declared the PDAF illegal. Among the PDAF funds included in Aquino's new budget are ₱7.26 billion under the DPWH, ₱4.1 billion for the DSWD and ₱1.03 billion for TESDA.

Up to ₱20.9 billion allotted to projects for local governments identified via the Bot-

tom-Up Budgeting (BUB) scheme also fall under the category of pork barrel funds designed by Aquino to ensure the political loy-



alty of local officials. On top of this, Aquino will also be in charge of the ₱2.9-billion LGU Support Fund, which is also bereft of details.

The DSWD budget will be swelling by 30% due to the added funds for the Pantawid Familyang Pilipino (PPP), a humongous and anomalous cash-transfer program which Aquino touts as the solution to poverty. This fund is generally used by local politicians to corner the votes of PPP beneficiaries. **AB**

“Savings,” Aquino’s new term for graft

Under the Aquino regime, the erstwhile virtue of "saving" has become a filthy system of stealing from the nation's coffers. Under the Disbursement Acceleration Program (DAP), Aquino has been pushing the notion of creating "savings" by arbitrarily slashing funds from a number of projects or programs in order to allot these to projects of favored politicians or businessmen.

Aquino's system of diverting "savings" under DAP has been declared illegal by the Supreme Court. Such illegal fund diversions are among the bases for one of three impeachment complaints against Aquino.

A broad coalition has roundly assailed Aquino's proposed redefinition of "savings" in the new budget for 2015. The old definition of "savings" referred to leftover monies at the end of the year or upon the completion of projects funded by such monies. Aquino wants to redefine "savings" to include funds from projects or programs that have not yet been implemented and to declare their existence even in the middle of the year.

The People's Initiative Against Pork Barrel charged that Aquino's new definition of "savings" is a way of circumventing the Supreme Court order against the DAP. Should this mangled redefinition be approved, it would disregard Congress' "power over the purse" and pave the way for the creation of a gigantic pork barrel under the president's control. **AB**

The people's verdict: Oust Aquino

Up to 60,000 people joined protest actions nationwide during Benigno Aquino III's State of the Nation Address (SONA) on July 28. They came up with their own versions of the SONA to expose the real state of affairs in the Philippines.

This year's protest action was marked by new heights of rage—reflecting the people's anger at exposés of how Aquino raided the nation's coffers for bribery and corruption. Their anger at Aquino was fuelled anew with his relentless defense of the Disbursement Acceleration Program (DAP) after the latter was declared illegal by the Supreme Court. The demonstrators' solid cries of "Oust Aquino" reverberated across the country.

In Metro Manila, up to 30,000 marched through Commonwealth Ave. towards the Batasang Pambansa in Quezon City, according to the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (BAYAN) which led the mass action. Among the demonstrators were thousands of peasants from Central Luzon and Southern Tagalog who marched to Manila for days.

The march was blocked close to two kilometers from the Batasang Pambansa. Up to 10,000 policemen and 400 soldiers were positioned behind layers of cement and metal barricades enclosed in barbed wire and huge container vans. The middle of the highway was likewise blocked with barbed wire to prevent the rallyists from crossing to the other side. As Aquino delivered his speech, the

rallyists were bombarded with water from fire hoses, which angered an observer from the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) who was likewise victimized.

Inside the Batasang Pambansa, legislators from the Makabayan bloc likewise protested by wearing peach symbolizing Aquino's impeachment. Before Aquino's speech, they left the Batasan to express opposition to his lies and stubborn defense of the DAP.

In Davao City, 6,000 rallyists simultaneously protested at various government offices before converging at Freedom Park and marching towards Rizal Park for the "SONA sa Katawhan." They called on the people to struggle against poverty, corruption, fascism and US imperialist plunder. Similar march-rallies were also held in the cities of Cagayan de Oro, Malaybalay, Iligan and

Zamboanga.

In the Visayas, an estimated 19,000 or so joined protest actions against the Aquino regime. In Roxas City, Capiz, 10,000 marched, including typhoon Yolanda survivors, to condemn the Aquino regime's neglect of calamity victims. Up to 7,500 marched in Iloilo City towards the Freedom Grandstand where they held their program. Some 2,000 rallyists marched from Banga to Kalibo, Aklan. In Bacolod City, more than a thousand joined a rally, including 300 employees of the Bacolod Hall of Justice who all wore black. Protest actions were also held in Cebu City and Tacloban City.

There were similar protests in Baguio, Vigan, Laoag and La Union.

Overseas, Filipinos launched simultaneous protests in Hongkong, South Korea, Saudi Arabia, Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Italy and New York City, USA. The most striking protest was that of 1,000 migrant workers in Hongkong.

On the other hand, 400 political detainees nationwide launched a hunger strike from July 25 to 28 to demand their immediate release. KARAPA-



TAN and the Samahan ng Ex-detainees Laban sa Detensyon at Aresto (SELDA) rallied in front of Camp Crame in Quezon City on the morning of July 28 to assail the unjust treatment of political detainees and demand the imprisonment of everyone implicated in the pork barrel scam.

On July 26, the #ScrapThePork Alliance, Anakbayan-Manila and GABRIELA-NCR hung peach cloths outside of Malacañang. On July 24, the KAPEDERASYON group launched "Rampaglilitis," a protest fashion show by lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgenders (LGBT) to assail the Aquino regime for treason, stealing, slashing the education budget and inaction on measures to protect LGBT.

Minutes before the SONA, policemen arrested Dr. Ma. Luisa Garcia, 46, and Rosita Labarez, 57, officers of the Controlled Economic Zone Federation, Inc. who led a protest by residents of Barangay Holy Spirit in front of the Sandiganbayan along Commonwealth Ave. where the presidential convoy passed through. They were opposing the scheduled sale of a 13-hectare residential area where their houses stand.

Meanwhile, a policeman used a taser gun on Rodel Torotol and his 12-year old child while they were inside their jeep which was parked near the Batasang Pambansa. When Torotol refused to give his driver's license, the police immediately used force. A taser gun shoots up to 50,000 volts of electricity to temporarily stun and immobilize a person. **AB**

10 military actions launched in Mindanao

Ten military actions were successfully launched by Red fighters of the New People's Army (NPA) in four provinces of Mindanao amid intensified military offensives by the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) this July.

The AFP suffered 38 casualties, including a lieutenant and a corporal, in the hands of the NPA. Meanwhile, the Red fighters were able to retreat safely in all of these gunbattles. The NPA was likewise able to seize high-powered firearms, including an M60 machine gun and an M79 grenade launcher.

In Davao del Norte. NPA Red fighters under the Comval-North Davao-South Agusan Subregional Command seized an M60 machine gun, a Cobra M16, four military packs, four cellphones, 500 M60 rounds and 300 K3 machine gun rounds in an ambush on patrolling 60th IB troops in Sitio Kapatagan, Barangay Gupitan, Kapitalong on July 25. Two soldiers were killed and six others were wounded.

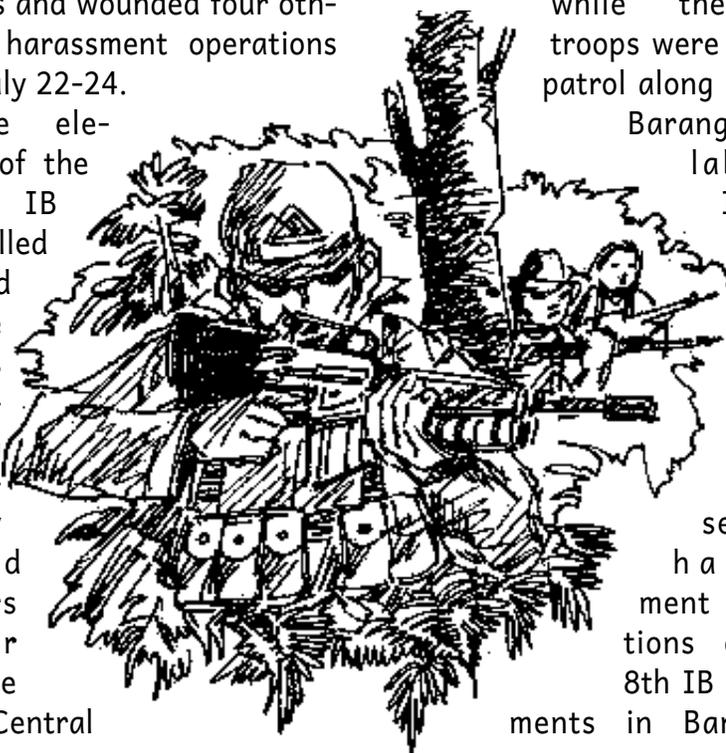
In Bukidnon. Red guerrillas seized three firearms, killed ten soldiers and wounded four others in harassment operations from July 22-24.

Nine elements of the 68th IB were killed and three others wounded in an ambush by Red fighters under the South-Central

Bukidnon Subregional Command (SCBSC) in Barangay Cawayan, Quezon on July 24, at exactly 2:10 p.m. Seized were an M16 rifle and an M79 grenade launcher, two military packs and other military equipment.

The exhausted fascists had just returned from combat operations in San Fernando town and were on the way back to their camp when they were waylaid by the Red guerrillas. The NPA platoon first used a command-detonated explosive (CDX) on the 26 AFP troops before opening fire. The battle lasted 40 minutes.

The day before, a corporal under the 8th IB was killed and another soldier wounded in a harassment operation by a unit under the NPA Eastern Misamis Oriental-Northeastern Bukidnon Subregional Command while the AFP troops were on foot patrol along Km. 30, Barangay Calabugao, Impasugong. Later, two NPA teams launched separate harassment operations on the 8th IB detachments in Barangays



Hagpa and Calabugao in the same town on July 24 and 25.

On July 22, Red guerrillas destroyed a boom spray truck owned by Sumifru Pineapple Plantation in Barangay Maynaga, Cabanglasan at exactly 11:40 a.m. They also seized a KG9 machine pistol. This was the third punitive operation by the revolutionary movement against Sumifru in the province this year.

On the same day, a column of more than 50 troops under the 104th Division Reconnaissance Company suffered an undetermined number of casualties after an NPA unit used a CDX and opened fire at them at around 11:30 a.m. in Barangay Sta. Filomena in the adjacent town of Quezon.

Meanwhile, a unit under the SCBSC punished a CAFGU element in Barangay Canangahan, Cabanglasan on July 18, seizing a .38 cal pistol from him. In 2009, the paramilitary surrendered two M16 rifles that had been entrusted to him for safekeeping by the NPA before joining the CAFGU. He has since been active in pursuit operations against the NPA and in threatening local residents to stop supporting the revolutionary movement and surrender instead.

In Davao Occidental. Three soldiers under the 73rd IB were killed, including Lt. Gary Magburan and two others seriously wounded when an NPA sapper unit used a CDX was on the KM450 military truck they were riding as it traversed Sitio Kitolali, Barangay Kelalag, Malita on July 16.

The soldiers were on the way to Barangay Demolok to pursue Red guerrillas who had arrested a military intelligence agent from Barangay Pinalpalan, Malita on July 15.

4 POWs released in CARAGA

The New People's Army (NPA) released on July 29 four policemen taken prisoner during a raid on the Alegria, Surigao del Norte PNP station on July 10. They were released amid a five-day ceasefire declared by the National Democratic Front-Northeastern Mindanao Region and the Government of the Philippines (GPH) from July 27 to August 1.

NDFP Negotiating Panel chair Ka Luis Jalandoni signed the release papers of PO3 Vic Calubag Concon, PO1 Rey O'niel Morales, PO1 Joen B. Zabala and PO1 Edito Roquino.

The NPA Custodial Unit first entrusted the prisoners of war to former DAR Sec. Hernani Braganza in a mountainous barangay of Kitcharao, Surigao del Norte. Braganza represented the office of DILG Sec. Mar Roxas. Also present during the turnover were Regional Peace and Order Council Chairman and Butuan City Mayor Jun Amante, Agusan del Norte Gov. Angel Amante, League of Philippine Board Members President Myrna Romarate, Bacuag Mayor Shiela Mae Cebedo, Kitcharao Mayor Aristotle Montante and councilors of Surigao City.

After the NPA Custodial Unit turned over the prisoners to Third Party Facilitators Rev. Bishop Rhee Timbang, Fr. Ramada and other church groups, the policemen were presented to GPH officials Sec. Mar Roxas, DND Sec. Voltaire Gazmin, OPAPP Sec. Teresita Deles and PNP Chief Alan Purisima, who were waiting at the Kitcharao town center.

In a statement dated August 1, NDF-Mindanao spokesperson Ka Oris thanked the Third Party Facilitators who worked hard and patiently linked up with various entities in order to forge a workable temporary ceasefire agreement between the NDF and the GPH. He also thanked Roxas, the PNP and AFP for abiding by the five-day ceasefire. AB

In Misamis Oriental. Five 58th IB troopers were killed and five others wounded in four successive military actions launched by Red fighters under the NPA Eastern Misamis Oriental-Northeastern Bukidnon Subregional Command in the first week of July.

Two soldiers were killed and two others wounded after being harassed by NPA Red fighters who were on patrol in Sitio Kapatagan, Barangay Umagos, Lagonglong on July 4, at around 5 a.m.

Three hours later, another

element from the same battalion was killed and three others wounded in another harassment operation by an NPA team in Barangay Kibanban, Balingasag.

The day before, a soldier was confirmed killed after a column under the 58th IB was harassed by an NPA unit in Sitio Kapatagan.

On July 1, a soldier had likewise been killed when Red fighters harassed a 58th IB unit on patrol in Sitio Pugahan, Barangay Bunal in Salay town. AB

AFP suffers 11 casualties in EV

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) suffered 11 casualties in military actions by the New People's Army (NPA) in Eastern Visayas from June 17 to August 2.

On August 1, an NPA special operations group meted punishment on Jojo "Jerson" Rafales in Calbiga town, Samar. Aside from being a CAFGU element, Rafales organized intelligence networks in the towns of Calbiga, Pinabacdao and Basey. He was involved in the killing of activist leader Rodolfo Dagumay Basada in Pinabacdao on June 29

and the attempted murder of Ariel Dacallos in Calbiga on July 31. Seized from Rafales was a cal .45 pistol.

Meanwhile, five soldiers were killed when Red fighters harassed 21 soldiers under the 87th IB conducting combat operations in the guise of "peace and development" in Barangay Magdawat, Pinabacdao on August 2. Earlier, on July 11, a

soldier from the 87th IB had also been killed after being sniped by the NPA while the troops were in the middle of military operations in the same barangay.

In Leyte province, five soldiers were killed and six others wounded when a platoon under the Mt. Amandewin Command thwarted an attempt by the 19th IB to encircle it on June 17. The NPA was then temporarily encamped at Barangay Hugpa, Ormoc City. The Red fighters suffered zero casualties during the 50-minute firefight. **AB**

Peasants raise farmgate prices of peanuts in Panay

Farmers in southern Iloilo on Panay island successfully raised the farmgate price of their peanut crop. According to the May-June issue of *Daba-Daba*, the revolutionary mass paper in Panay, the price was raised from ₱35 to ₱37 per kilo, benefiting 200 peasant families.

Farmers in the villages of Igaras, Tubungan and Leon towns in Iloilo had long been suffering from low farmgate prices for their produce, including peanut, whose price had remained frozen at ₱35 per kilo especially during the harvest season. The situation is worsened by the exploitative system of procuring seeds known as "piniluan." Under this system, a farmer borrows peanut seeds from a "financier" at ₱65 per kilo and pays him back ₱135 per kilo come harvest time.

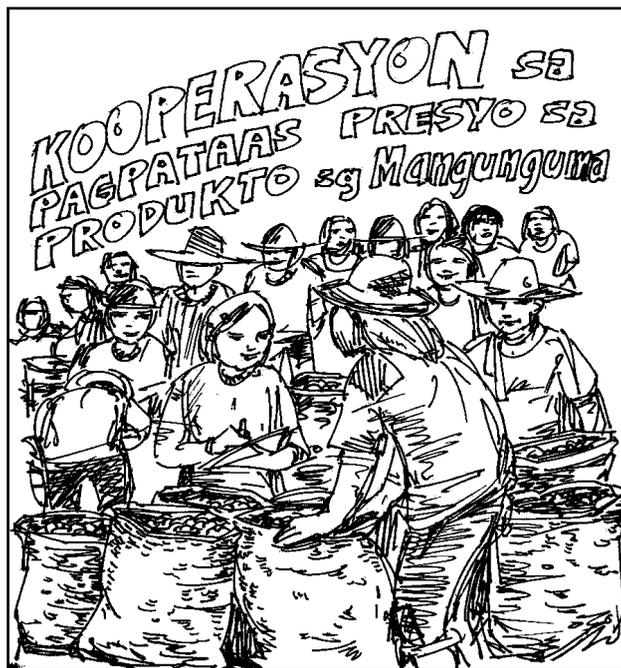
A farmer is usually able to harvest five sacks of peanut for every sack of unshelled peanut seeds. Five sacks of peanuts weigh around 200 kilos. Thus, a farmer earns ₱7,000 for every five sacks of peanuts sold at ₱35 per kilo. But after subtracting expenses for seeds, plowing and other land preparation, planting, harvest-

ing and food, among others, he turns in a deficit.

In this regard, the farmers organized a cooperative in their area, which conducted several dialogues with the local governments, representatives of the Department of Trade and Industry and the municipal agricultural committees. They also circulated a petition signed by the farmers demanding assistance and higher farmgate prices for their agricultural produce. As a result, a number of local governments provided capital for seeds.

As a cooperative, the peasants were able to amass 15 tons of peanuts (15,000 kilos). They demanded that local merchants buy their peanut crop at a higher price. Because they sold their peanut crop in bulk, they succeeded in raising the price per kilo by two pesos.

Meanwhile, *Daba-Daba* also reported that in Cuartero town in Capiz, farmers were able to reduce trucking expenses for their corn crop from 70 centavos per kilo to 50 centavos per kilo. The reduction benefited 100 peasant families from two barangays. **AB**



People's militia in SMR grows stronger and broader

In the first half of 2014, Red fighters of the New People's Army (NPA) in Southern Mindanao Region (SMR) were able to launch many successful military actions in the face of the Armed Forces of the Philippines' (AFP) intensified military campaigns. Behind each victorious military action was mass support and most of all, the participation of their armed forces in the locality—the people's militia.

In a shaded area in the middle of a meadow ensconced in a mountainous area of SMR, farmers, mostly men, began trickling in one morning. They were sweaty but greeted others with smiles, and they brought with them food packed in lunch boxes and banana leaves. They were villagers who had come to organize the second people's militia platoon in their barrio.

They continue to build the people's militia even if their area is surrounded by sections and platoons of the butcher AFP conducting a Peace and Development Outreach Program (PDOP) under Oplan Bayanihan (OPB). This prompted an NPA member from another guerrilla front to ask the locals whether the venue was secure. They answered "yes," and the visitor did notice that the gathered villagers didn't mind the presence of many enemy soldiers around them because they relied on the masses. The area's mass base is solid, even if the fascist enemy was encamped nearby because the latter remained blind and deaf to the presence of the revolutionary mass movement.

The soldiers' objective is to destroy the villagers' unity, so the barriofolk continually plan how to de-

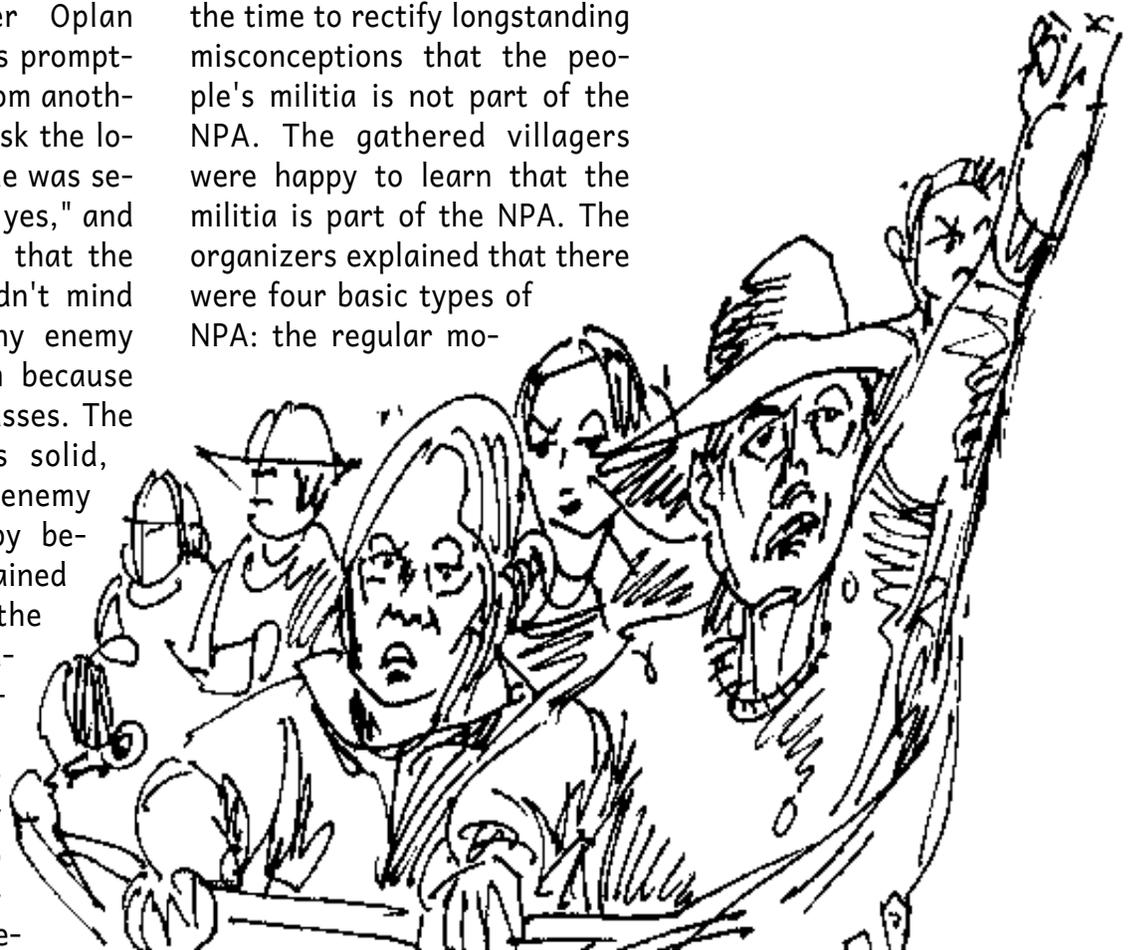
fend and fight for their interests. One way is to build the people's militia. This is the usual course in the NPA's areas of operation where it is common to have a battalion-size militia in every municipality. Should the military chance upon them while having a meeting, they would be ready for any kind and manner of fighting based on their capabilities and concrete conditions. This is how important the people's militia is nationwide.

In-depth discussions were held in the process of organizing the militia. This is usually the time to rectify longstanding misconceptions that the people's militia is not part of the NPA. The gathered villagers were happy to learn that the militia is part of the NPA. The organizers explained that there were four basic types of NPA: the regular mo-

bile forces, the armed propaganda units, the partisan units and the people's militia. The only difference between the militia and the first three types is that the militias are part-time fighters. Militia members become even more enthusiastic when they are provided military training and are able to join military actions.

The meeting was over before dark and met no problems despite enemy movements nearby. It was noticeable how the militia members became even more trusting of each other and developed tighter bonds with the full-time NPA members after the militia platoon was established and the various points clarified. They were proud to be called the center of gravity among the masses and the backbone of the revolutionary mass movement. **AB**

Excerpted from the May 2014 issue of Pasa Bilis, the revolutionary mass paper in Southern Mindanao Region



Peasant activist killed in ComVal

A peasant activist and a civilian were killed by military forces in Compostela Valley and Iloilo, while three civilians were illegally arrested in Bukidnon in the last two weeks of July.

Compostela Valley. Peasant activist Gregorio Galacio, a resident of Barangay Kahayag, New Bataan was killed on July 19. The victim was gunned down in his house at around 3:45 a.m. by men wearing ski masks, black T-shirts and fatigue shorts. One of them was a known military informer. Galacio sustained eight bullet wounds, all of them fatal.

The victim had been summoned and interrogated several times by the 66th IB at the barangay hall, which has been occupied by the military since 2013.

Galacio and other members of his family became active in the democratic movement after elements of the 28th IB killed his daughter Grecil in 2007. To cover up their crime, the soldiers accused the nine-year old Grecil of being a child soldier of the New People's Army (NPA). They even took a picture of her body posed beside a planted M16 rifle. The military later retracted its statement after investigations proved the falsity of the accusations.

The Galacio family left their village after the military hounded them. But they resumed their livelihood in the barrio in 2010 and lived quietly for a while. The military began harassing the family anew last year.

Iloilo. Military forces killed

Gerardo Larbo, a 38-year old farmer from Barangay Mayang, Tubungan on July 17. The victim had a bullet wound to the head.

According to Consolacion Larbo, the victim's mother, Gerardo left their house on the morning of July 17 to go to their farm and harvest their corn crop. At around 3:45 p.m., Consolacion over the radio that a gunbattle had taken place between the 82nd IB and the NPA in the area of their farm, and that five soldiers had been wounded.

Consolacion wanted to go to their farm to check on Gerardo, but the military refused to give permission. On July 18, she learned that Gerardo was dead.



Bukidnon. Three civilians were illegally arrested on July 22, with two of them still in detention. Melvin Anggumao, 20; Joeffrey Ganancia, 18; and an unidentified minor were arbitrarily arrested and accused of being involved in the successful NPA raid on the Sumifru Pineapple Plantation in the village that day. The victims, who are all residents of Sitio Maynaga, Barangay Iba, Cabanglasan, were also divested of their cellphones and motorcycles.

Their relatives, neighbors and barangay officials all went to the police to testify that the victims were innocent of the arson charges filed against them, but they have not been released.

Meanwhile, two other civilians have been slapped with trumped-up murder charges in relation to the NPA ambush on Impasug-ong Mayor Mario Okinlay on July 2. Joven Yanggo, 31; Efren Yanggo, 29; and Ryan Daluniag were likewise arbitrarily arrested just so the military and police could claim that their investigation had made some headway. AB

Detained scientist posts bail

A SCIENTIST who was illegally arrested while conducting research in Davao Oriental has gained temporary liberty. Kim Gargar was released on August 1 after his family and friends helped raise the ₱210,000 bail ordered by the court.

Gargar was detained for ten months after the military filed charges of illegal possession of explosives, frustrated murder and violation of the gun ban against him.

He was illegally arrested by the military in Cateel, Davao Oriental on October 1, 2013 while the 67th IB was conducting operations against the New People's Army in Barangay Aliwagwag of the same town. Gargar was in the area conducting research for an organization assisting victims of typhoon Pablo.

He is a scientist and professor at the University of the Philippines-Diliman. AB

Death squad stalks Rodriguez, Rizal

Three urban urban poor activists were gunned down at the Southville housing resettlement site in Barangay San Isidro, Rodriguez, Rizal on July 10. The victims who were identified as Nathaniel Bacolod, 19; Junmer Paraon, 22; and their aunt Susan Mamaril, 50, were killed by elements of a death squad run by the military and the Rodriguez local government.

Two days before the killing, suspected death squad elements likewise abducted Mamaril's son Michael. He was interrogated for hours and falsely accused of 20 different crimes before being released. Michael was present at the time of the shooting but he survived.

Bacolod and Paraon were both members of the progressive urban poor organization Kalipunan ng Damayang Mahihirap (KADAMAY) while Mamaril was a local leader of the GABRIELA women's group. Bacolod was known as a youth leader in the community. Mamaril, on the other hand, was active in the community's struggle for social services, such as electricity.

Four years have passed since they were forcibly transferred to Southville after their homes in San Juan City were demolished, but they have yet to be provided their own electrical lines. Instead, Baque Development Corp., the company that built Southville, supplies the community with electricity, charging exorbitant rates. Baque is owned by wives of military officers. AB

LRT 1 privatization fraught with anomalies

The privatization of the Light Rail Transit 1 (LRT Line 1) extension to Cavite is highly disadvantageous to the people. On the other hand, Metro Pacific Investments Corp. (MPIC) and Ayala Corporation have been guaranteed huge profits. LRT 1 is the biggest project under the Aquino regime's Public-Private Partnership (PPP) program.

The Aquino regime has awarded the ₱65-billion LRT-1 Extension contract to the sole bidder—a group comprising the MPIC (which put in 55% of the capital), the Ayalas (35%) and Macquire Infrastructure Holdings Corp. of Australia (10%). The MPIC is led by big comprador Manny V. Pangilinan and is bolstered by capital from the Salim group of Indonesia. Pangilinan and the Ayalas were the biggest contributors to Aquino's election fund in 2010.

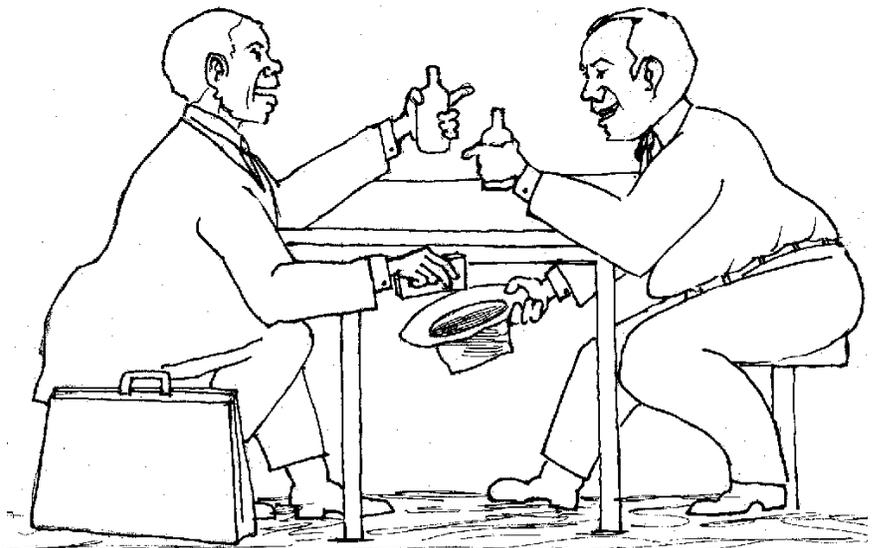
Under the concession agreement (which has a duration of 32 to 50 years), the MPIC-Ayala group will not only take charge of constructing the new line extension to Cavite, but the privatization of the entire LRT 1 operation from Roosevelt, Quezon City to Baclaran, Pasay City as well.

MPIC-Ayala has also been granted the power to automatically and regularly raise

train fares. Starting this August, the maximum fare will be raised from ₱20 to ₱32. On top of this, train fares will likewise be automatically raised as soon as the construction of the line extension to Cavite is completed. A 10% fare hike every two years is also in the offing, aside from an inflation-based fare increase every four years.

Under the contract, the Aquino regime will grant the MPIC-Ayala group a ₱5-billion subsidy and an estimated ₱64-billion tax exemption. The Aquino regime will also be assuming the ₱35-billion expenditures for right of way, additional coaches, improvements in the former coach depot and the construction of a satellite depot.

Meanwhile, LRT employees are seriously worried about the possibility that some of them may be terminated and lose their benefits. AB



International protest against Israeli aggression in Palestine

Millions of people around the world launched protest actions in the past two weeks calling for an end to Israel's war of aggression against the Palestinian people in Gaza City.

Up to 1,800 Palestinians have been killed in almost a month of relentless bombings by Israel that began July 8. Almost 70% of those killed were civilians, including more than 400 children and almost 100 elderly. Up to 10,000 have been injured, including more than 3,000 children. More than 250,000 have lost their homes, with the majority now seeking refuge in schools run by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency.

More than 136 schools and 26 hospitals have sustained damage or been completely destroyed by the bombings. Israel has bombed civilian structures, water systems, roads and other infrastructure, including the only power plant in Gaza.

A flurry of demonstrations was launched on July 25, International Quds Day, which was designated as the international day of solidarity with the Palestinian struggle. Millions rallied in Tehran and more than 770 cities and towns of Iran to condemn Israel.

There was also a

100,000-strong rally in the United Kingdom and big demonstrations in Germany, Syria, Pakistan and India.

Earlier, more than 400 protest actions had been launched worldwide, most of them in countries whose governments support the Israeli war—the US, Canada, the United Kingdom, Ireland, Australia, France, Italy and Germany. In the US, protest actions were launched in 46 out of 50 states, with some of the biggest rallies held in the cities of Los Angeles, San Francisco, Sacramento, New York and Washington DC.

More than 40 protest actions were likewise held in various cities of the United Kingdom, especially in Ireland and Scotland. Despite prohibitions by the French govern-

ment, 52 protest actions were launched in Paris, Bordeaux, Lyons, Toulouse and Nice, among others. In Germany, 25 protest actions were launched in Berlin, Bonn and other areas. Twenty-two protest actions were held in Toronto and other Canadian cities.

There were protest actions as well in Italy, Spain, Sweden, Belgium, Switzerland, The Netherlands, Norway, Greece, Cyprus, Finland, Denmark, Serbia, Austria, Hungary, Turkey, Bahrain, Kuwait, Lebanon, Pakistan, India, Sri Lanka, South Africa, Malta, Morocco, Tunisia, Australia, New Zealand, Hongkong, Chile, Brazil, Argentina, Bolivia, Colombia and Costa Rica.

The majority, or 62 out of the 94 member-countries of the United Nations have condemned and assailed Israel, whose only supporters are the US, UK, Germany, Canada, Australia, France and a number of US client states like the Philippines, Colombia, Costa Rica and Georgia.

In the Philippines, members of progressive organizations marched to Mendiola on July 17 to demonstrate their solidarity with the people of Palestine. **AB**

