

Know and frustrate the US-Duterte regime's counterrevolutionary war

**Committee Central
Communist Party of the Philippines**

The Armed Forces of the Philippines and Malacañang recently announced their assessment of defeating the revolutionary armed movement by middle of next year. Supposedly, guerrilla fronts of the New People's Army (NPA) in Eastern Mindanao—pertaining to the Southern and Northeastern Mindanao Regions—have weakened to a great degree. They claim that they do not see as threats the western regions—Far South and Western Mindanao—since these border with Moro areas and thus will not be able to expand. They estimated the growth of the North Central Mindanao Region. They called NPA units in Luzon and the Visayas as “ragtag,” except those in Samar and Quezon.

These presumptions are way off mark. On the other hand, these indicate the AFP's concerns over North Central Mindanao, Eastern Visayas (Samar) and Southern Tagalog (Quezon).

The fascist AFP has embarked on a last quarter offensive to meet their deadline in the next midyear. It is pushing for the intensification of the counterrevolutionary war alongside widespread repression and attacks on people's organizations and struggles, as well as Rodrigo Duterte's political rivals.

The AFP's extensive meddling in the 2019 midterm elections is part of its grand plan. Prior to this, the AFP has already escalated its anti-communist scaremongering, Red-tagging, slander and intrigue, attacks on and suppression of progressive organizations and parties. Militarization, threats and harassment in barrios, communities, factories, schools and other places suspected as bastions of support for

progressive candidates and partylist organizations have been intensified. The fascist military flaunts the laws against electoral interference and partisanship.

In line with the National Task Force to End Communist Insurgency (NTF) and the 12 Pillars of the 2018 National Internal Security Plan, the AFP and the Duterte ruling clique will use military operations and units as well as other intelligence, psychological and propaganda campaigns and projects to threaten, intimidate and attack candidates who do not favor them.

The last quarter offensive also aims to frustrate and prevent the Communist Party of the Philippines' (CPP) 50th anniversary celebrations.

There have been temporary setbacks and damages in some Mindanao regions. But the fascist military is hallucinating if it believes this translates to the strategic defeat of the revolutionary movement. It grossly underestimates the re-

volutionary movement's deep roots among the masses, as well as the CPP and NPA's determination to overcome current weaknesses and shortfalls.

Contrary to the AFP's ruses and lies, the armed struggle is firmly growing in various parts of the country. Extensive and intensive guerrilla warfare is sure to advance based on an ever widening and deepening mass base and frustrate the all-out counterrevolutionary war of the fascist and puppet Duterte regime. The Mindanao regions which the AFP have belittled shall certainly grow, as Western and Far South Mindanao have demonstrated in the 1980s and 2016 respectively.

The AFP's various tactics and schemes to split the people's army and the revolutionary movement have failed miserably. Across the nation, the NPA has repeatedly proven that it is a genuine revolutionary army which is completely devoted to fight for the country and the people's national and democratic interests. It is firmly under the absolute leadership of the CPP and has a command structure from the national to the local units.

The people's anger against the fascist regime's crimes and various brutalities and attacks, as well as its barefaced lies, is rapidly grow-

ing. The signs that the crisis of the ruling system is deepening are ubiquitous. Prices of commodities, food, oil and other necessities are spiraling. The people are burdened with new taxes, while social services are reduced. Foreign debt is increasing, the budget deficit is widening and unemployment is

worsening. Landgrabbing is prevalent, as well as feudal exploitation. Agriculture remains backward. The lack of self-reliant industries, reliance on foreign investments, and unimpeded export of Philippine labor continue unabated.

The fundamental weakness of the rotten reactionary ruling system

and fascist military is being transformed into the revolution's material force to frustrate the Duterte regime's fascist attacks and hasten its exposure, isolation and eventual downfall, as well as to gain revolutionary strength and advance the people's democratic revolution into a higher level.

The National Task Force and the so-called whole-of-nation approach

LAST NOVEMBER 1, Malacañang announced the creation of the National Task Force to End Communist Insurgency (NTF), as recommended by the AFP. This will supposedly implement the whole-of-nation (WoN) approach and the NISP 2018. The WoN moniker was first used under the 2011-2016 Oplan Bayanihan. This purportedly replaced the Clear-Hold-Consolidate-Develop strategy of earlier "oplans." It aims to portray counterinsurgency as a fight for the people.

The term whole-of-the-nation approach was first used in Oplan Bayanihan and is derived from the "whole-of-government" concept espoused by the US State Department's 2009 Counterinsurgency Guide. Designated as the main vehicle for the whole-of-nation approach are the Peace and Order Councils composed of local government units, the military, police, Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP), Department of Social Welfare and Development for the Balik-Loob or surrender program in the regional and provincial levels, and other reactionary government agencies as needed.

Counterinsurgency's psychological and civil-military operations (psyops and CMO) aspects are enhanced. The PAMANA was created to purportedly decimate the NPA by simultaneously implementing socioeconomic programs and intelligence-driven operations in NPA guerrilla fronts identified by the AFP as priority areas. On the one hand, these psyops aim to slander the NPA and revolutionary movement; and prettify the AFP and the reactionary government, on the other hand. Socio-economic projects are just a psyops component which consist of hard and soft aspects, are tantalizing and vicious, and primarily aim to slander, intimidate, isolate and crush the NPA.

Illusion of mass support

In an attempt to defend the reactionary, puppet and rotten system, the AFP's whole-of-nation approach aims to depict the counterrevolutionary war as that which is widely supported by the people. It is making it appear that the entire country is fighting the communist "insurgency" and thus, obliging government agencies, local government units, NGOs and other so-called stakeholders from the business sector, various institutions and other professions to participate.

The term whole-of-nation approach is a deceptive embellishment used to portray counterinsurgency as more political than military and is aimed at resolving the root causes of the armed struggle through good governance. It is a ridiculous attempt to disguise the clear-hold-consolidate-develop strategy, even as it is continually implemented in accordance with the gradual constriction strategy.

It scapegoats the NPA's armed struggle as the main cause of poverty and lack of development and, thus, claims that the defeat of the NPA as crucial to national development. Rampant corruption and government criminality are considered minor and secondary. It aims to justify the brutal and intensive military campaigns and operations, as well as widespread fascist repression of the people.

Putting the entire state under fascist military control or de facto martial law

In the AFP's midterm assessment of Oplan Bayanihan, it admitted failure to implement the whole-of-nation approach. The main weakness, it claims, was its inability to command the local government units. Also, only a fraction of PAMANA programs were implemented due to rampant corruption. Humanitarian projects (seed and farm implements distribution) are few. The construction of farm-to-market roads are yet to be completed or started.



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The AFP insists it is best if they control the local government units and implementation of socio-economic programs if the whole-of-nation approach based on the US counterinsurgency strategy is to be followed (a strategy based on the Afghanistan model which clearly failed.). If the military had its way, it would have placed the entire country under martial law. In the meantime, the AFP devised the NTF-12 Pillars to rectify what they deem as the problem of Oplan Bayanihan. Under the NTF, the military's authority, control and intervention in civilian agencies of the reactionary government is expanded.

Duterte's left-and-right appointments of retired generals and colonels to various positions in the civilian bureaucracy fits the NTF. The current militarization of the government bureaucracy is unparalleled. This is part of Duterte's "punisher" and patron government which purportedly handles major societal problems through rampant killings and iron fist tactics.

The NTF also serves the Duterte clique's factional interests. It uses the whole-of-nation approach to justify and cover-up the ruling clique's monopolization of power and bureaucratic loot. This is while the militarist faction is fortified and protected as one of the main, if not the most powerful faction and pillar of the fascist regime. If implemented completely, the ruling clique can also use the NTF to expand its control on various government levels and extend its power. This is not the first time that the "protect the republic" slogan was used as a pretext to facilitate the monopolization of reactionary power by a faction and extensively suppress the people.

In fact, the militarization of civilian agencies, the Duterte faction's monopolization of power, funds, projects and its control over reactionary local government units, and the predominance of the fascist

ideology in the name of "national security" add up to de facto martial rule. Under the "national security" ideology, the people and the nation's life is subsumed under the preservation of the puppet state and the defeat of its enemies.

The 12 clusters of various government agencies

The NTF created 12 clusters of various government agencies. The AFP and PNP are in each one. The Peace and Development Cluster is the main cluster and is mainly controlled by the AFP, PNP and NSC. This design aims to subsume various government agencies under military control, direction, agenda and will. The AFP exploits even the programs, policies, priorities, funds and resources of various reactionary government agencies.

The fascists and militarists have long hoped to put all aspects of governance under the matter of "national security," use the reactionary government services and obligations and political and judicial processes as instruments to suppress the people's struggles. The NTF seeks to transform and place every agency and service of the reactionary government under military centralism, weaponization, psy-ops, CMO, espionage, intelligence and under its counterinsurgency program.

Within the 12 clusters and tasks, the unification and intensification of the military campaign to Clear-Hold-Consolidate-Develop under gradual constriction is evident. In fact, these are also called "operational clusters," meaning these are really part of the military's operations.

Evidently, the Peace and Development Cluster aims to mount focused and sustained military campaigns against the NPA and use all other clusters to serve this objective.

The Local Government Empowerment Cluster shall be led by the DILG which is currently headed

by retired AFP chief of staff and fascist criminal Eduardo Año. This design aims to transform various reactionary government agencies into cogs and wheels of a grand surveillance machinery against revolutionary organizations and struggles, and moreso against democratic organizations and mass struggles maliciously linked to "insurgency."

The primary standard used to measure the effectiveness of this cluster is its efficiency in subjecting the masses and revolutionary forces to surveillance. Its purported anti-corruption function is merely an embellishment. In reality, high ranking military and police officials are already drooling over their expected shares from the large budget that will be allocated to the cluster under the guise of "good governance," social services and socioeconomic projects. Certainly, this cluster shall be utilized to manipulate the midterm elections and place military henchmen and counterrevolutionary politicians in power.

Meanwhile, the International Engagement Cluster targets Prof. Jose Ma. Sison, Founding Chairperson of the CPP and chief political consultant of the NDFP, the International Desk of the NDFP, as well as other organizations and institutions overseas working for the advancement of the Filipino masses' genuine interests and struggles. More intelligence branches were established to monitor the NDFP and other progressive organizations and formations overseas. This aims to sever the relation of nationalist and democratic organizations and Filipino forces to other progressive, democratic and friendly organizations, forces and institutions abroad. It also aims to have all foreign funds and aid channeled through the reactionary government and cut international links and support to progressive organizations.

The Legal Cooperation Cluster was established to weaponize reac-

tionary laws and courts for all-out war. It shall be used, on the one hand, to slap trumped-up criminal charges against members of revolutionary, progressive and democratic organizations and in illegalizing their struggles; and on the other hand, in guaranteeing legal protection and impunity to the fascist implementors of all-out war. This shall broaden and institutionalize the execrable IALAG/IACLA (Inter-Agency Legal Action Committee) notorious for slapping criminal charges based on planted evidences and concocted testimonies against progressive leaders and activists and civilians targeted or simply caught in the middle of the fascist forces' campaigns, operations and plots.

Grouped under this cluster are reactionary government agencies under the security sector (AFP/PNP, NICA, ISAFP, IG of the PNP, NBI and NSC), the Department of Justice (to domineer over fiscals, prosecutors and judges) and the NCIP (to be used especially against Lumad communities). This also includes proposing repressive laws like the National ID System (immediately putting under suspicion as terrorists or criminals those who fail to present identification documents) and railroading amendments to the Human Security Act (HSA). This strengthens the power of the AFP and suppresses the rights of the majority who may be subjected to suspicion under the HSA including those who join legitimate protests, express their criticisms and disgust with the Duterte regime and those who are left with no choice but to participate in mass struggles due to their worsening plight.

Meanwhile, the Strategic Communications Cluster shall be utilized as a grand psywar and surveillance machinery to suppress the open and democratic mass movement and to paralyze and eventually decimate the underground movement in urban centers. This shall target the

movement and organization of the student-youth, workers, urban poor, women, teachers, church people, lawyers, businessmen and other democratic sectors, human rights organizations, alliances and progressive partylists in an attempt to foil their congressional bid in the upcoming 2019 elections. This shall focus on White Area Operations based the Red Area/White Area Operations concept of the AFP.

The AFP admits that the democratic movement and progressive organizations are effective in influencing public opinion against the military, and hence, need to be subdued and silenced. In reality, the open democratic mass movement, which is at the forefront of advancing the genuine interests of the people, is among the sharpest, most militant and active critiques of the reactionary and fascist government and AFP.

Extensive fascist suppression against the legal and open democratic mass movement in urban centers is imminent. The AFP is systematically making this appear acceptable to the general public by inventing the Red October Plot, branding schools as NPA recruitment bases, and by preposterously claiming that legitimate demands and the struggles of workers, urban poor, peasants and the youth are part of the said conspiracy. It is making it appear that the mass movement is merely a product of deception, manipulation and conspiracy of the enemies of the state instead of regarding this as the people's legitimate expression of profound discontent and as their democratic right. The manipulation of public opinion is hyped by militarists as the political instrument of "counterinsurgency" to conceal the adverse impact of their surveillance and combat operations and suppression.

The Basic Services Cluster, Livelihood and Poverty Alleviation Cluster and the Infrastructure and Resource Management Cluster shall primarily be used against outlying

and forested areas in the boundaries of provinces that are alleged as NPA "strongholds" or bases. The clusters purportedly aim to conduct "intensive" socioeconomic projects that are, however, shallow and a mere superficial show as these do not address the fundamental problems of the masses. These shall be used by the AFP as a veil to conceal its occupation of many communities for its gradual constriction campaign and compelling the NPA to engage in decisive battles.

High ranking AFP officials are certain to pocket funds to be requested for the program. The AFP is scapegoating the NPA for the reactionary government's failure to deliver basic services and livelihood projects in the countryside. In reality, the NPA and the revolutionary movement has a long shown its willingness to cooperate even with reactionary government agencies if their efforts are indeed advantageous to addressing the plight of the impoverished masses in the countryside.

It is the AFP which is notorious for incessantly attacking and destroying production and livelihood projects and cooperatives engendered by the anti-feudal struggles of peasants, fisherfolk, Lumad and other minorities. The destruction of schools, clinics and other mass initiatives for aid from progressive and religious groups continue unabated. Even projects by independent private organizations suspected of contributing to or influenced by the revolutionary movement are threatened and prohibited.

The Sectoral Unification, Capacity Building and Empowerment Cluster shall target the Lumads and other national minorities in hinterlands within the area of responsibility of guerrilla fronts in various parts of the country especially in Mindanao and Cordillera. These purportedly aim to strengthen the traditional structures and leadership of the Lumads and other na-

tional minorities so as to fortify them against the NPA, deny the latter of strategic territories for the formation of strong and powerful revolutionary bases and open such areas for exploitation by foreign mining, palm oil and coal corporations among others.

The AFP shall also dominate all other clusters: Situational Awareness and Knowledge Management (which shall focus against revolutionary taxation), Localized Peace Engagement (surrender campaign) and the E-Clip Amnesty Program (administration of the program for surrenderees).

Intensified fascism under the NISP 2018

In an attempt to fulfill its promise of decimating the revolutionary movement next year, the AFP is simultaneously peddling the need to intensify its fascist suppression and brutality. But even before realizing the aim of smashing its armed enemies, it is already suppressing all democratic rights, illegalizing all collective organizing endeavors, people's struggles and protests, subjecting those it suspects of being members or supporters of the revolutionary movement to surveillance and profiling and railroading the enactment of fascist laws including amendments to the HSA.

Notice that the NISP 2018 ob-

jective of decimating the "communist terrorist group" deviates from NISP 2007 objective of ending "insurgency." It is already carrying out Proclamation 374 despite Malacañang's proscription case declaring the CPP-NPA as terrorist organizations still pending before the courts. However, it still cannot totally abandon the term "counter-insurgency" as explicitly stated in the complete name of National Task Force to End Communist Insurgency.

It can also be seen that it has abandoned DDR (disarmament, demobilization and reintegration or concisely put, surrender) as its main objective in engaging the NDFP in peace talks and replaced it with "localized peace talks."

Part of PDT operations is the extrajudicial killing of renowned mass leaders and those who are alleged as local cadres or forces under the guise of Operation Tokhang (anti-drugs). Cases of EJKs are most numerous and frequent in "focus areas."

All-spectrum dominance

All-spectrum dominance is also a component of the counterrevolutionary war. This entails employing to the full their dominance in all necessary fields of counterrevolutionary war—dominance in the military field, mass media, resources, laws and justice system, and foreign funding. All-spectrum dominance is an essential component of the whole-of-nation approach.

Thus, militarily, there is a rush to continue increasing the number of AFP battalions and Special Action Forces and boosting its weaponry to aim at the revolutionary movement. The target ratio is to have 10 soldiers to every one NPA fighter.

In the mass media, besides having control of facilities and programs, the government is increasing the number of its paid trolls, carrying out censorship and other means to control information to conceal its fascist crimes from the broad public, hindering progressive propaganda and information, defining a single language to depict the revolutionary movement as terrorists, propagating fake, baseless and malicious news against the NPA and revolutionary movement, assigning fascist spokespersons up to the level of AFP companies.

In the legal and judicial fields, the IACLA was set up to prepare trumped-up charges against progressive and revolutionary forces, recruit and assign military personnel among the fiscals, prosecution and justices, maintain a network of paid court personnel, rush repressive measures in Congress such as the National ID system, the Human Security Act amendment and other similar measures despite the fact that the reactionary state's justice system is already stacked up against progressive and revolutionary forces.

In terms of resources, the government lopsidedly favors intelligence and military spending and directs resources of various government agencies to prioritize the counterrevolutionary war.

It relies principally on foreign funding to sustain its purchase of arms and other military equipment, intelligence, training and actual mobilization of US troops in operations. On the other hand, they attempt to block revolutionary taxation and block what they deem to be other possible sources of resources from abroad.



Resist and frustrate martial law behind NISP 2018

WE MUST EXERT all effort to expose and fight the NISP 2018, the whole-of-nation approach doctrine and the formation of the NTF and transformation of the entire machinery of the reactionary state as a weapon in the military's "counterinsurgency" campaign. This is a treacherous way of concealing de facto martial law or giving the military absolute control of various civilian agencies of the reactionary government against the people, the progressive and revolutionary forces.

The whole-of-nation approach is a product of the moribund system. This will fail to attain its declared aim of unity in the face of irreconcilable contradictions. This is set to fail at the outset.

"Good government" is an empty concept, with the agencies and units of the reactionary government unable to perform its mandate because of Red-tape and chronic corruption. Local units of the reactionary government are paralyzed by politics based on privilege of dominant parties, political dynasties, as well as by the interests of local bureaucrats. The AFP and PNP is growing even more as a large powerful syndicate, with corrupt officials benefiting from Duterte's large fund allocations. Unless formed and controlled by the AFP, NGOs cannot be fully used to deodorize the military, nor for intelligence and deception.

So-called stakeholders each has their own interest which on various occasions and levels intersect with particular programs being advanced by the

revolutionary movement. Above all, the oppressed and exploited masses who are being suppressed and subdued cannot be expected to applaud the AFP and the reactionary government.

The accumulation of modern weapons is unsustainable. This requires ever greater funds and will result in a more lopsided budget favoring the military. Any modernization of the reactionary AFP that is debt-dependent and undertaken in a backward economy is unsustainable. The funds to be allocated will surely be plundered by high officials of the

AFP and reactionary government.

The attempt to further strengthen their domineering over reactionary laws and the justice system is being challenged by the rise in the number of human rights defenders within and outside the justice system, by the thorough exposure and resistance against fascist schemes in congress, and through turning the tables against the enemy by charging whoever official and military unit involved in every single fascist crime committed against the people and revolutionary movement.

We must thoroughly propagate the revolutionary justice system, uphold and popularize the Comprehensive Agreement on Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law (CARHRIHL) and advance the broad united front and mass movement to expose and fight every fascist scheme and crime.

Whatever attempt to control information and dominate public opinion, the reactionary government cannot completely block social media, the passing of information, the mass movement, nor the dominant media, as long as it pretends to uphold the right to free expression. In addition to developing specialized machineries, revolutionary propaganda work is a mass movement in character and cannot be stifled nor hindered by reaction. AB

