

**SPECIAL
ISSUE**



PASA BILIS!

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THE NEWSPAPER OF THE MASSES OF SOUTHERN MINDANAO



YEAR 23 NO. 3

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**On the 10th anniversary of reliving the lessons of resistance
and advance in the wake of calamity**

LESSONS FROM TYPHOON PABLO

Tempest

by Joven Obrero

Weeks in the headlines
splattered on the front of papers
All that everyone talked about
The storm in the south.
The thunder hardly waned
and lightning like cannons and bombs
Blood and mud fused and flooded
Bodies sprawled on their backs
In the wreckage of the back
wrecked mountain
Hope is lost
Of ever finding the lost once again.

Still the alien thirsts for the land
Flooded by his capital and
rained down with his bullets
Pineapple and banana plantations
bear witness
To the hunger and
suffering of the children of the island,
To the fascism of soldiers
Who stand like dogs guarding the interest
Of the companies' yearning
To make a killing

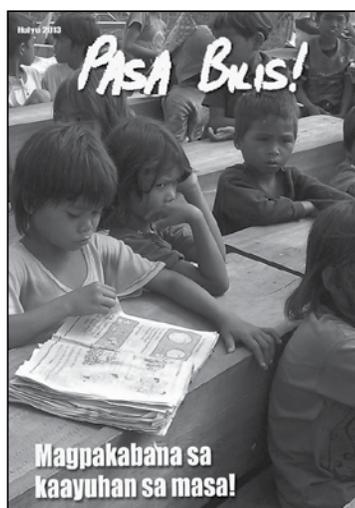
Many lost lives and limbs
Many more lost farms and homes
Others lost their wits
Wondering why
there is no end in sight
In the darkness of our night

Noynoy pointed his lazy finger at Juan,
Blamed small-scale mining
and illegal logging
While he comfortably sought calm
In the coddling arms of Uncle Sam

The east
looks dark and menacing
foreboding another tempest
a gathering storm more haunting
More powerful than anything in history
A deluge that will wipe away
and demolish
The old putrid barracks
In order to end all
Exploitative and oppressive relations!

None shall be spared from this storm
from the force lying in wait
from the hands of those who toil.

Blood will flood
The people will demand recompense
For the centuries of suffering
And torment
Inflicted by the ruling class
Leap! Move!
The wind is howling
The storm is coming



▲ Cover of *Pasa Bilis!* June 2013 issue

On December 4, 2012, at around 3:00 in the morning, Typhoon Pablo ravaged the bigger part of Southern Mindanao. In barely four hours, decades of the masses' hard work came undone, their communities, farms and livelihood were laid to waste.

When the dust settled and the masses were confronted by the extent of the damage wrought by the calamity, they did not lose hope. Instead of begging for crumbs from the reactionary government, the masses courageously launched a historical campaign of resistance and recovery.

They rejected the mentality that they were mere victims; they demanded accountability from the US-Aquino regime, they barricaded the national highways and raided the various warehouses of the reactionary DSWD and landlords in order to confiscate rice and other relief goods that were hoarded there.

They identified the true culprits of the widespread destruction that resulted in the wake of the natural disaster; they demanded reparation from big logging and mining companies that for decades amassed obscene wealth through

Reliving the lessons of resistance and recovery

unmitigated abuse and exploitation of the environment.

They showed that through their collective strength, they were able to gradually rebuild their communities; they raised their homes from the ground up, cultivated their large communal farms, carried out comprehensive programs and rehabilitation campaigns and constructed public facilities such as schools, clinics and waterway systems.

Above all, they wielded their own political power; they established their revolutionary mass organizations and organs of political power in the barrio and municipal levels.

A decade has passed since Typhoon Pablo ravaged our region but a recurring calamity continues to victimize the masses: the plague of exacerbating crisis of the backward economy still reeling from the effects of the pandemic in the midst of the worsening fascism of the US-Marcos II regime.

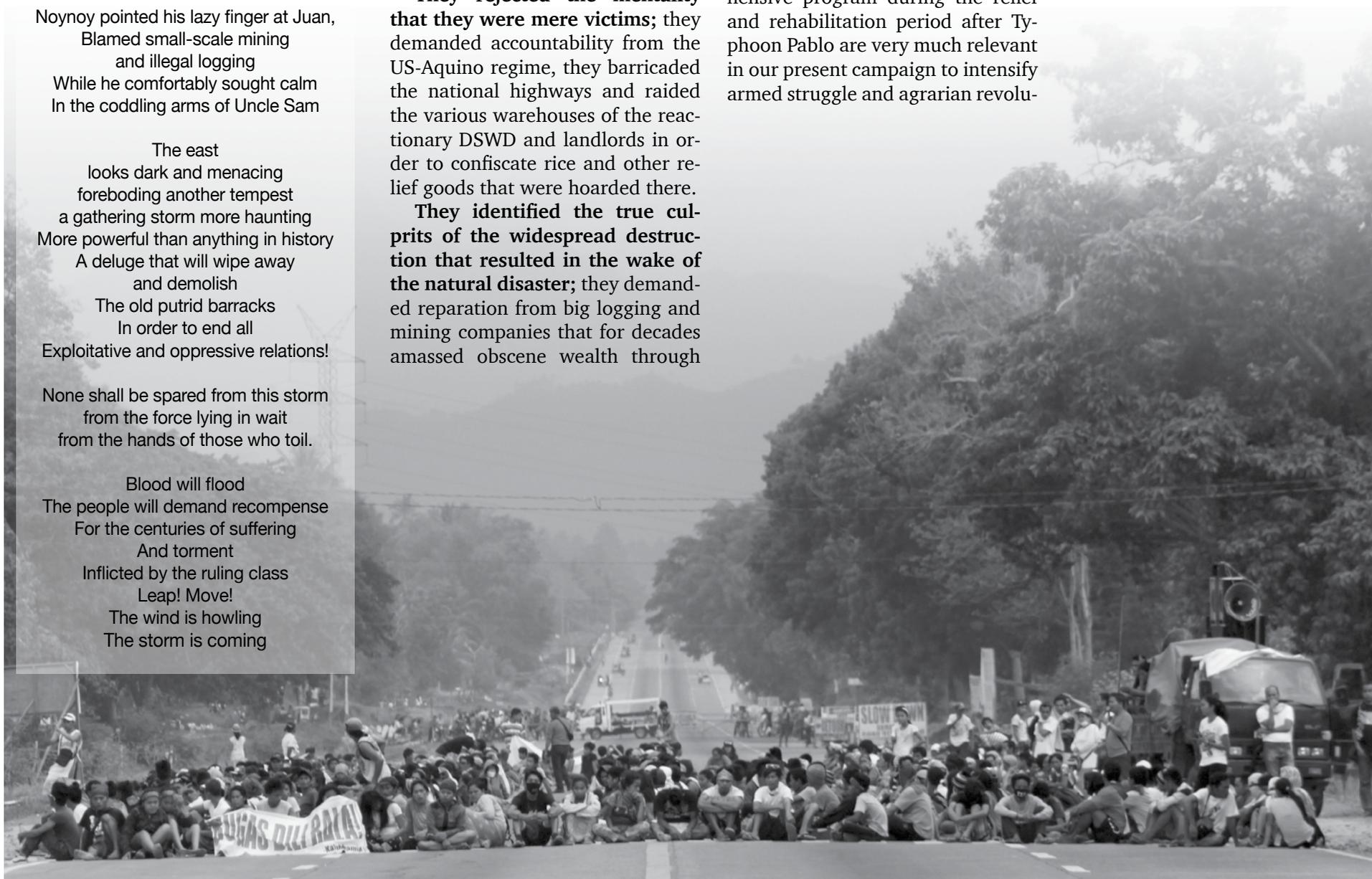
Pasa Bilis! believes that the lessons we learned from our comprehensive program during the relief and rehabilitation period after Typhoon Pablo are very much relevant in our present campaign to intensify armed struggle and agrarian revolu-

tion and rebuild our mass bases in the region.

The basic problems of the masses have not changed, in fact they worsened, amid the blustering claim of the enemy that it has successfully freed the region from all forms of resistance with its "insurgency-free" declaration.

And so, our paper presents this collection of choice stories, poetry, experiences and essays on the lessons gleaned by the masses, the Red army and members of the Party during the onslaught of Typhoon Pablo and the succeeding period of overcoming, resistance and recovery.

In the final analysis, the experiences of the masses in rising above the challenges of Typhoon Pablo's onslaught prove that the revolutionary mass movement of holding the reactionary regime accountable, of intensifying armed struggle and agrarian revolution and of developing the people's political power are key to resolving any crisis, calamity or temporary failures or setbacks. ★



► **THE STRONGEST IN THE HISTORY OF SOUTHERN MINDANAO.** In the early hours of 4 December 2012, Typhoon Pablo, a category 5 storm known internationally as Bopha, hit the east coast of Mindanao in the south of the Philippines. With sustained winds of 250 kph, it was the 16th and most powerful typhoon to hit the Philippines in 2012 and the strongest in the history of the region. A year later, this is but a few images that painted the extent and breadth of the damage: around 6.2 million people were affected, 1,046 were killed, 2,662 were wounded, 841 were still missing. More than ₱41 billion was the estimated damage to agriculture, which is the primary source of livelihood by the masses.



Onslaught of Typhoon Pablo



The National Democratic Front in Mindanao commiserates with the families of the victims and survivors of Typhoon Pablo, especially with those who were severely impacted by the sudden flashfloods and landslides in Davao Oriental, Compostela Valley, Surigao del Sur, and the larger part of Mindanao, including Palawan and parts of the Visayas. We likewise extend our sympathies to the bereaved families and friends of AFP soldiers who were killed in the heavy mudslide that flooded New Bataan in the province of Compostela Valley [Davao de Oro].

As a result of Typhoon Pablo, around 1,200 were killed in Mindanao, thousands were wounded and hundreds are yet to be found. Damages in agriculture were estimated to amount to ₱37 billion in Davao del Norte alone and ₱4 billion elsewhere, and left thousands of peasants in dire suffering and desperation. Cities were also flooded where many lost their lives, while thousands still were forced to abandon their ruined homes.

In response to this severe calamity, and in the name of all revolutionary forces, the NDF-Mindanao declares a unilateral ceasefire order for the New People's Army in areas affected by the calamity in order to ensure the safe, unhindered and quick rescue of

victims, and to allow for the immediate and unhampered relief services to the affected communities. This ceasefire order shall take immediate effect on 12:00 of December 5 until 12:00 of January 3, 2013 and may be extended as necessary depending on the results of the assessment on the conduct of said ceasefire.

In consultation with the Mindanao Commission of the Communist Party of the Philippines and the respective operations commands of the NPA in the affected areas, all NPA units covered by the aforementioned ceasefire are hereby ordered to cease from launching tactical offensives within the stated period. Meanwhile, we urge the AFP-PNP-CAFGU to refrain from using the rescue, recovery of bodies, distribution of relief goods, rehabilitation of damaged communities and carrying out COPD [Community Operations for Peace and Development—Ed.] as guise in their military operations against the NPA and the masses in the area. In these situations, all NPA units reserve the right to defend themselves and the masses who are already reeling from the calamity.

We likewise urge all NPA units in the affected areas to aid, when security and resources permit, in rescuing victims, recovering bodies, distributing relief and rehabilitating damages. On the same note, we urge all revolutionary forces and the masses to pool together their resources for relief in order to once more express our concern for the well-being of the victims.

The biggest damage that has a lasting effect, but which may not be im-

mediately felt, is that Typhoon Pablo destroyed hundreds of thousands of hectares of the remaining rainforests in Southern and Northern Mindanao. This havoc is the drastic result of climate change, created, in part, by the irreversible damage to the natural environment by imperialist mines, logging and agri-business plantations. On the other hand, global warming continues to worsen due to excessive carbon emission from unmitigated fossil fuel consumption in the name of superprofit. Now that the remaining rainforests are slowly being depleted, we expect the manifold negative effects to our environment which can lead to more frequent and stronger typhoons in the future, including the possibility of extended La Niña and El Niño phenomena.

The Aquino administration has never learned the bitter lessons of Typhoon Sendong, the sudden flashfloods of Ormoc, and many similar man-made and natural disasters. It even boasted of being prepared for any calamity, but in reality, it miserably failed in protecting the people against natural disasters.

Heavily hit were the towns of Bagangga, Cateel and Boston in Davao Oriental; New Bataan and Monkayo in Compostela Valley; and Lingig and Hinatuan in Surigao del Sur. These areas are host to large plantations owned by Dole and Sumifru, including large mining sites such as Indophil.

The Diwata mountain range which straddles these towns have been denuded for the past 50 years by big logging activities bankrolled

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In response to this severe calamity, and in the name of all revolutionary forces, the NDF-Mindanao declares a unilateral ceasefire order for the New People's Army in areas affected by the calamity in order to ensure the safe, unhindered and quick rescue of victims, and to allow for the immediate and unhampered relief services to the affected communities.



Hampak sa Bagyong Pablo
Ang NDFP-Mindanao nagpaangantay sa pahahintay sa mga samahing sa mga bakitana sa mga nakalingkawan sa bagyong Pablo, labi na ang katutuhan sa pinakapaligang kalapitan sa kailan nga paghaha ug pagpapalibutan sa mga komunidad sa Davao Oriental, Compostela Valley, Surigao del Sur, ug dakong bahin sa Mindanao, apil ang Palawan ug Kababuyan sa Kabisayunan. Suot usab namong ipadangat ang among simpatiya sa mga naglanghapang mga pamilya ug katugalan sa mga namatay sa AFP nga namatay dihang namatay sa laputan nga baha sa New Bataan, probinsya sa Compostela Valley.
Kasabay sa bagyong Pablo, ang namatay sa Mindanao makabati sa 1,200. Ibinay ang maingit ug gubatan sa ang serbisyo. Ang kahadang ngalan sa karamihan ngalan sa mga PNP bilyon sa Davao del Norte sa lang ug 14 bilyon sa uban pa, ug naghatin sa lalabing mag-ot nga grabang mag-ot ug mag-ot. Cebuhan usab ang mga riyalid din daghan ang nakalain, samang lalabing ang namatay paghaha sa lalabing mga nangagaha nga baha.
Tayo hing-iwing grabang katugalan, ug sa ngalan sa mga rebolusyonaryong puwersa, ang NDFP-Mindanao midaklarar ang kaugalingong hunong-buto para sa HIFB sa mga orya ng ayatidat sa kalamidad anong mahimong lutas, wala'y babag ug pagpapang pagpapang sa mga bakitana, ug sa pagpapaligayon sa pagpapang ug wala'y baha nga pagpapang sa rebolusyonaryong alipin sa mga apikadong komunidad. Kini nga oryasyon hing-iwing ipatuman sa alas 12 sa ulan sa Disyembre 5 hanggang sa alas-12 sa ulan sa Enero 3, 2013, ug mahimong ipadagayon kun gikatahang depende sa mahimong resulta sa pagpapang sa koreksiyon sa oryasyon.
Sa pagkalamang-alipin sa Komisyon sa Mindanao sa Partido Komunista ng Pilipinas ug sa mga hing-iwing pangkat Komand sa HIFB sa mga apikadong orya, ang tanang mga yunit sa HIFB nga bughal, hing-iwing deklarasyon sa oryasyon gikan sa Davao de Oro, 2013, ug mahimong ipadagayon kun gikatahang depende sa mahimong resulta sa pagpapang sa koreksiyon sa oryasyon.
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▲ First published in the maiden issue of Sulong! January 2013. Sulong! is a publication of NDF-Mindanao.

Pay attention to the well-being of the masses

A vast area where the true political power of the masses exists. Mass organizations are active. Barrio revolutionary committees are likewise in full function. The governing body in the barrio is united in confronting the usurers and bringing down the rate of interest of debts. They have also prevented the entry of plantations that wished to displace them from their land.

We also find the masses actively participating in production work here in communal labor and farms. They aim that in two harvests, they will be able to eradicate abject hunger. And all the children are able to attend school. However poor, the masses are steadfast that every single child should be able to know his or her letters. And if able, the children will be able to continue onto high school, even up to college.

On the matter of health, they have local medics or barrio medical groups that take care of the wellness of residents, including sanitation and nutrition campaigns and programs to ensure the well-being of children and mothers.

On the matter of defense, the New People's Army conducts its theater of war, including the People's Militia that actively defends the barrio folk and the achievements of the people. Here, there is vast area for the Red army's maneuver. It is able to maintain initiative because this is its base. The Red army decides the conduct of war here. It has mastered the terrain. It wields military initiative. And the Red army enjoys the full support and assistance of the wide and deep mass base, thus, it is able to hit the enemy whenever the latter ventures into its territory.

A dream? No. This is the true picture of the guerilla base or *bager* that we gradually establish in the more consolidated areas of guerilla fronts across the archipelago. We conceive this image into historical reality through difficult and painstaking mass work, launching armed struggle and agrarian revolution, particularly antifeudal mass campaigns.

As we smash the exploitative and oppressive structures imposed by the ruling class, we concurrently build our genuine organs of power of the people. This power emanates from the fair and just aspirations for land, livelihood, justice and peace of the poor and oppressed.

But, this power can never ever be realized by the people without an army that confronts the forces of the reactionary state; the people will never be able to build their own government without the armed struggle; no ruling class will ever freely relinquish its power. Until there are oppressors, the resistance of the oppressed will continue to exist. In short, the people's war.

In our conduct of the people's war, armed engagements are far from the only matter at hand, for we concern ourselves with the comprehensive advance in achieving our political goals and resolving the roots of the civil war. Hence, we consider at all times the three basic components of our work in the countryside—the mass base, armed struggle and agrarian revolution. Three components that support and help one another. Without one, the other two will stagnate. These three components collectively are our important yardstick for how effective and solid our conduct of the people's war is. At the same time, this is also our measure of whether we truly have paid attention to the well-being of the masses. Have we addressed their primary interests? Have we depended and leaned on them?

In the immortal words of our great teacher Mao Zedong:

For the revolutionary war is a war of the masses; it can be waged only by mobilizing the masses and relying on them.

If we only mobilize the people to carry on the war and do nothing else, can we succeed in defeating the enemy? Of course not. If we



want to win, we must do a great deal more. We must lead the peasants' struggle for land and distribute the land to them, heighten their labour enthusiasm and increase agricultural production, safeguard the interests of the workers, establish cooperatives, develop trade with outside areas, and solve the problems facing the masses—food, shelter and clothing, fuel, rice, cooking oil and salt, sickness and hygiene, and marriage.

In short, all the practical problems in the masses' everyday life should claim our attention. If we attend to these problems, solve them and satisfy the needs of the masses, we shall really become organizers of the well-being of the masses, and they will truly rally around us and give us their warm support. ★

Editorial of Pasa Bilis! July 2013 issue

We don't need a typhoon to build our municipality

by Delilah Mirabal

First published in *Pasa Bilis!*
March 2014 issue

HINTERLANDS OF COMPOSTELA VALLEY —“How do we build the people’s government in the municipality level? Maybe we need a typhoon as strong as Pablo!”

This was the running joke during the formal establishment of the Revolutionary Committee in the Municipal level or KRM within an area of contiguous consolidated barrios in the countryside of Compostela Valley [*Davao de Oro—Ed.*—all rampaged by Typhoon Pablo. Although the typhoon did indeed present a favorable condition for the masses to tap into their strong unity in overcoming the challenges of the disaster, there was a deeper historical basis why the Party launched a campaign to establish local organs of political power.

“We have managed our communities by ourselves for the longest time. I think it’s time we build our own government,” Tay Biyong said, the chairman of the mass organization of farmers.

“A breakthrough. When we strive to become trailblazers in doing what has never been done before for others to emulate and learn from,” the secretary of the Party section added.

“We just need to review the principles of OPGK (organs of political power of the people), the Guide to Building the People’s Democratic Government and other important documents, and learn and troubleshoot problems in the process.”

The breakthrough of building the KRM became a reality for the Party branch and the NPA unit. Cadres and mass activists from the Party’s Sub-Section, from the subregional urban unit, the newly-established Subregional Peasant Bureau, and the Subregional Guerilla Unit, the vertical unit of the NPA in the area, were mobilized for the campaign. It covered 12 contiguous standard barrios with a population of more or less 12,000.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6



Solid organizing, production, and strengthening the people's militia as foundations of the campaign

First of all, the local barrio revolutionary committees or KRB and the mass organizations must be strengthened, for this is where the power of our government comes from. Because these areas have long been guerilla bases and were never destroyed by the enemy, unifying the masses and formally establishing each KRB and solid mass organization (HOM) became easy. In four months, four new KRBs were added to the already existing two KRBs.

"All in all, we have six KRB-level, three HOM-level, and two organizing committee-level (KTO) level barrios. The KRM must ensure that the KRBs function as organs of political power and that the other barrios are developed with the aim of eventually turning them into KRBs as well," Tay Biyong summarized at the start of the campaign.

"Let's look again at the basis of our campaign: we have all the needed requisites in building a municipality. We have a strong core of Party cadres from the masses; we have contiguous guerilla bases that have never been destroyed by the enemy; we mobilize thousands during mass campaigns; we are a well-spring of cadres and Red fighters in the Party and the NPA. We have seen again the people's militance and revolutionary spirit during and after the typhoon. What reason is there to delay the establishment of our government?"

"That's right," one comrade said. "We tailed a little from the conditions... a bit conservative." Heads nodded in agreement.

The KRM needed to have a program to address the basic need for food in their barrios.

"Production and more production!" exclaimed Tay Tonying, pointing to the fresh sprouts of planted corn in the wide field that was damaged by typhoon Pablo.

▼ PROGRAM FOR PRODUCTION.

The KRM's primary program is to address widespread hunger through planned campaign for food production such as rice and corn.

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When we take to heart the Party's directive to complete the requisites towards strategic stalemate as firm command, our creativity and determination will shine through.

After the storm, the masses and the comrades strove to rehabilitate the farms as the Party pooled resources for farm inputs, seedlings, and food subsidy for work. Ten months later, seven barrios opened communal farms and around 150 hectares of individual corn and rice fields.

One of the barrios opened a communal vegetable farm for the masses' consumption, while the surplus yield was sold in the nearest town for additional income for the community. Another barrio opened a rice field of almost 50 hectares.

The collective production campaign was planned during a conference after the typhoon. During the conference, the masses agreed to avoid using chemical pesticides and fertilizers. To control infestation, they were trained to create organic pesticides made from leaves, weeds, and plant roots. Five barrios have their respective tree nurseries for reforestation. As of now, they have more than a thousand seedlings of fruit and durable trees. Other barrios also planted bamboo and other trees.

For the NPA unit, the Red fighters' own effort in production work became a learning experience. More than two hectares of corn field in one barrio and more than one hectare in another were cultivated by Red fighters themselves in June and July.

"Let's not forget the schools we rebuilt, the water systems, poultry houses, fishponds, and other services we carried out inside the base," Kas Mon added, a member of subregional urban unit.

To complete the requisites of building a municipality, the militia on the

municipality level was formally established," reported Kas Bong. "We now have enough strength to advance the guerilla warfare of the masses. Because it is municipality-wide, it is more coordinated and in a better capacity to launch tactical offensives against the enemy."

As of now, the militia is battalion-sized, whose leading cadres have completed the Basic Politico-Military Course, and Ordnance and Medical trainings. Some of the militia have firsthand combat experience on tactical offensives and have been actively doing tour-of-duty inside regular NPA units for a long time.

'Done... but not finished yet.'

The KRM was formally established in a conference participated in by representatives from the local Party branches and section, municipal-level HOMs, KRBs, barrio-level HOMs and KTOs, and the municipal-level people's militia. At the conference, the masses elected their chairperson, vice-chairperson, and the municipal council. The elected officials also appointed the heads and members of the committees on Organization, Education, Economy, Health, and Defense.

The KRM likewise outlined the plans and programs for each committee and the initial important policies.

"That was it, Kas? The preparation and completion of the requisites were much more tiring than the founding day itself," observed Nay Ida after the conference. But the comrades and the masses knew better, because the KRM's succeeding months and years will be more complicated in ensuring that the people's organ of political power func-

tions well.

"Training mass activists to manage the municipality and gradually turning-over to them the important tasks is certainly meticulous, especially that sometimes there is a tendency for the masses to depend on the Party and the NPA."

"That's why it seems we're done," said a chuckling Tay Biyong, "but we're actually not finished yet."

Summing up the lessons in line with our principles

During the campaign, leading cadres overcame a lot of weaknesses and limitations. For Kas Lot, platoon commander of the NPA unit, he learned to be flexible in balancing the basis of solid organizing.

"Before, our understanding of step-by-step organizing is really mechanical. Even though the masses already have a high level of political consciousness and are ripe for the establishment of a higher level of organization, we chose to always begin in step one and drag their development on to the next level."

In general, the campaign showed that when comrades undertake a comprehensive plan on mass work, we can overcome the vestiges of conservatism and be able to mobilize the masses in their thousands in many barrios.

When we take to heart the Party's directive to complete the requisites towards strategic stalemate as firm command, our creativity and determination will shine through. Hundreds of Party members, thousands of organized masses and Red fighters exhibited this when the KRM was built.

And so, how do we build the people's government on a municipal level? In a pot, bring to a simmer the fiery unity of masses and toss in the three requisites of the people's war. Stoke the fire with the creative vigor of the Red army and stir with the Party's initiative whenever needed.

"And we really don't need a strong typhoon to build our municipality," said Nanay Ida, chuckling. ★



Struggle and Recovery

“Mobilize all machineries in our areas of responsibility, mobilize the masses to solve hunger and overcome the hardship cause by Typhoon Pablo!”

Stronger than the storm

Stronger than the storm
Is the people united
More powerful than the flood
Is the deluge of resistance
When the masses rise
Nothing stands in their way,
Nothing hinders their advance
For they are the makers of history
And the revolution's
inevitable victory

And to those who exploit
the landed gentry and their sharks
the bourgeois compradors
and fascist soldiers
the plunderers of the land
and the fat bureaucrat looters
the imperialists that siphon off
the wealth of the people
and ravage nature
All of them shall stand
in judgment
under the people's
hammer and sickle
They shall be weighed
and found wanting
On the day
of our triumphant marching!



Mas kugan pa sa unos

Mas kugan pa sa unos
Ang katumbang naghiusa
Mas gamhanan pa sa balha
Ang bul og sa pag-also
Kun masa na ang molihok
Walay makasanta,
walay makapagang
Masa ang mahukmanon
Sa pagtagog sa rebolusyon



Sulong Katawhan

Sulong, sulog, sulog, sulog
Masang naglibud mosulong
Masang naglibud mosulong
Pagkoon ug hustos, sang mangkoon

Wala nay panahon sa paghihik
Wala nay luma sa pagbangon
Mag-uma, magagan, magpapas
Rukod balah ang atong umahan
Rukod balah ang atong subakan

Sulong, sulog, sulog, sulog
Masang naglibud mosulong
Masang naglibud mosulong
Pagkoon ug hustos, sang mangkoon

ug silang maghihikmanon
silang mga AT ug usuron,
DBK, ug paistang sundalo
Mga tipangawak og yuta
Ug mga digupog kawalan
Imperyalistang milina
Sa bahandi sa katawhan
Ug midaut sa kinayahan
Silang tanan mosulabang
Sa hukon sa katawhan
Silang tanan paghukman
Sa adlaw sa kidadagan

Mas kugan pa sa unos
Ang katumbang naghiusa
Mas gamhanan pa sa balha
Ang bul og sa pag-also
Kun masa na ang molihok
Walay makasanta,
walay makapagang
Masa ang mahukmanon
Sa pagtagog sa rebolusyon

Sulong, sulog, sulog, sulog
Masang naglibud mosulong
Masang naglibud mosulong
Pagkoon ug hustos, sang mangkoon

Sulong, sulog, sulog, sulog
Masang naglibud mosulong
Masang naglibud mosulong
Pagkoon ug hustos, sang mangkoon

▲ First published in Pasa Bilis! July 2013 issue.

This was our unity during the emergency meeting of the Party's sub-section and the Red fighters in the area after Typhoon Pablo ravaged the three provinces of Southern Mindanao.

In merely two hours of the typhoon's onslaught, the farms painstakingly cultivated by the masses were destroyed! Coconut trees, banana, corn, and fruits were felled; the sprawling sweet potatoes were wiped out, and all crops were ruined. A week after the typhoon, everything was the color of dull brown and the heat was unbearable. The weather was in turmoil.

But what did the reactionary government say after the typhoon? They blamed the calamity on poor people like us. They said that the damage was because of the stubbornness of the poor like small-scale miners and small loggers. Tsk, tsk, tsk. Our jaws dropped! Imagine? The nerve of them to blame the victims!

The root causes of the disaster were clear to us during the Party sub-section's emergency meeting. It's clear who ravaged all the big trees which would have been our defense during typhoons and landslides. Who was it that destroyed, excavated and flattened on a wide scale our mountains in order to mine gold and other minerals? To whom were these resources sold to and who benefitted from them? And they have the gall to tell us that large-scale mines like Russel Mining and plantations like those owned by Dole and Stanfilco are the road to progress and can save the Lumad from abject hunger?

After the typhoon's two-hour onslaught, where was the supposed Philippine government when the people needed it? It is a good thing the New People's Army is here. It is a blessing that the true government of the people exists here. The Party is here.

They were nearby when the disaster struck. They were the ones who took our children and elderly to safety from the houses that, in a matter of minutes, were blown away. When it seemed all hope was lost, it was the Red army that helped us rise above our predicament during the calamity.

In our meetings with the masses and the Red fighters, we took stock of



PAGLIHOK UG PAGBANGON

▲ First published in Pasa Bilis! July 2013 issue.

the situation and the way forward was made clear. We can overcome the havoc wrought by Typhoon Pablo through united and collective struggle.

The extent of damage to the semi-feudal and semicolonial economy already deep in crisis—from the scarcity of food to the loss of seedlings and food crops—will be impossible to resolve unless we do away with the small-producers mentality.

It took us decades to make our livelihood, and one night of exchanging ideas among members of the Party branch won't solve our present problem. Neither can the self-serving so-called relief of the reactionary government or the multi-colored flags of non-government organizations with their cash-for-work programs. They already have programs like this in other barrios before the typhoon, but were they able to solve the poverty of the impoverished? And then there's 4Ps [Conditional cash program by the reactionary government—Ed.], has that alleviated the suffering of the Filipino poor?

In our meeting, we detailed the immediate steps to take in order to solve hunger. Because this can't be done individually, we resolved to undertake collective farming in our communal farms. We're targeting that by the end of December, we will have already planted rice and corn (the seedlings that weren't damaged by the typhoon) in our communal farm. We figured our seedlings will be enough for two hectares and our organization will still outsource for more.

We will open 10 to 20 more hectares so we can feed everyone in the community. We will strive for collective

farming so we can harvest more. And later, we will farm 20 hectares more to achieve 40 hectares of rice field so that in one year, we will be able to provide for the rice consumption of the entire community.

Despite the heat and the rumbling of our stomachs, the collective in the Party branch and the members and officers of the mass organizations were all smiles after the meeting.

They said the typhoon was indeed terrible but it was that difficult situation that united us to vigorously carry out our tasks in the people's war and lay the requisites for stalemate. That was already the Party's call before the typhoon. Does the enemy believe the people's war will regress because of the damage wrought by the typhoon? How very wrong they are. Big mistake, huge. Instead, we turned the calamity into an opportunity to build our people's government.

Our next priority is the school for our children. Through our plan and concerted effort, we will repair our damaged schools. We already have a design for this and the SP* and the KRB* committee on Education have set the schedule on how to go about it. The Parent-Teachers Association is also helping. The GI sheets are ready, so are the nails, planks of wood, saw and hammers. These were all from the successful campaign that we carried out to demand reparations from the loggers that cut all the trees in our province. Our children will be able to start their classes after the new year.

The comrades' design to guide our community's recovery is both clear and practical, and it's not merely for

Nong Daniel, the communal farm and the people's militia



by Nova Viejo

It's nothing unusual for the residents here to notice suspicious people lurking around their community. For sure, there's a full military operation. Nong Daniel knows that this is surely connected to large-scale mining. This has been the government's plan for quite some time. Even before Typhoon Pablo, mining surveyors had already come. The residents had also received letters from the 76th IB ordering them to go to the headquarters to surrender and sign some documents. But, they didn't go. They have done nothing wrong; they weren't criminals.

Despite the update, more than 60 residents continued clearing their newly-established communal farm. This is a three-hectare rice communal farm. They need to produce food after the storm destroyed their crops. The KRB and the mass organizations agreed to revive and increase the harvest of this communal farm.

"Have some breakfast first!" says Kas Karding, who came with the other militia, bringing food with them. They had been assigned to cook for those participating in the communal. Nong Daniel approaches the militia.

"Kas, what's the update about that suspicious person in our community?" asks Nong Daniel.

"We saw boot prints just now. The fascists will come anytime now," Kas Karding responds.

"They're more careful now. The thugs! One time, their asset was captured." Nong Daniel passes the vegetable stew to those in the communal.

"Exactly 60 attended? Is there anyone

absent?" Kas Karding grins. "Surely, our yield this harvest will be big," he adds.

"Yes, assessments after the day's work really helped," Nong Daniel explains.

"We in the people's militia became closer since the typhoon. Due to the communal, I can say that we are more organized now. We are stronger in facing challenges," Kas Karding says. He turns his gaze toward the far end of the communal farm. The rice glistened like gold in the daylight.

Nong Daniel is the chairman of the sub-committee for Economy of the Barrio Revolutionary Committee, the people's government established in the guerilla bases.

"This month, we can harvest the sweet potatoes we planted. The children will have their share. The elderly and the sick will also have theirs," announces Kas Karding.

"Okay, let's go. We still have to do reconnaissance over that end. Our task calls," says Kas Karding, placing his .38 calibre pistol on a holster by his side.

"Take care. Thank you for the meal!" exclaim the people in the communal farm as Kas Karding and the militiamen head towards their own destination.

Nong Daniel and the others continue clearing the communal. In no time, the three-hectare area is cleared. Everyone is in high spirits. Nong Daniel is certain he and the others are thinking of the same thing—to be able to eat the fragrant and sweet rice soon. Because of Typhoon Pablo and the hardships that they experienced after, they had come up with the best way to recover: through genuine cooperation.

Pak! Pak! Pak! Praaaaak!

"Everyone on the ground!" shouts Nong Daniel to the others.

Pak! Pak! Pak!

"Who's your leader here?" barks a soldier from somewhere. Nong Daniel thinks that it might be the military commander. "You're quite many. You're NPAs, right? Where are your weapons?"

"Sir, we are indigenous peasants here in our community. We're around 60 here," says Nong Daniel, his face on the ground.

"You're joking!" The soldier kicks Nong Daniel's leg. "You're good at answering back, huh!"

Soldiers aim their weapons at the people on the ground. Nong Daniel sees their patches, 76th IB, but no names.

"Last time, our companion went missing around here. You were responsible for that, right?" the soldier asks with scorn.

The residents all have their faces on the ground.

"Sir, there are only bolos here. There are no weapons," reports a soldier to their superior who continues interrogating the masses.

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Oh, what a waste! It was difficult getting those from the town and the tools were also donated by those who supported them after the typhoon. And they just burned them all! The scoundrels!

"Okay, gather all the bolos. You already know what to do," commands the superior as he collars Nong Daniel to stand. "Everybody on your feet! Follow us!"

Nong Daniel is shoved at the front of the line. He feels the barrel of the armalite on his side.

Minutes later, Nong Daniel and the masses look in horror as the soldiers burn all their farming tools. *Oh, what a waste! It was difficult getting those from the town and the tools were also donated by those who supported them after the typhoon. And they just burned them all!*

The scoundrels!

"Get to your village square!" barks a soldier, pushing Nong Daniel.

At the village square, children, mothers, and the elderly are herded out of their homes. Others are shaking in horror. The people are frightened. Small children are crying.

"Sir, good morning. What's this?" asks the worried barrio captain.

"Are these people really residents of this barrio?" asks a soldier in return.

"Sir, they are the officers and members of the peasant association here. Why did you drag them here? It's their schedule to farm today so that they can have some food after the disaster brought by the typhoon," the barrio captain says.

"We're just making sure that they're residents here and to ensure our security. We lost a soldier here in your barrio," says the soldier.

"It's better that you keep your distance, sir. It's not safe for the civilians. And there are many children..." says a barrio councilor.

"We won't do anything. Just continue your work, we'll also continue ours. We're just following orders from our higher ups," the soldier insists. "But if we had been the NPA, you'd probably let us stay on for months," the soldier adds ruefully.

The soldiers enter the barangay hall and nearby houses. One soldier signals to Nong Daniel. "You! Bring us water, a cooking pot, and a chicken!" the soldier says. "And be warned: if something bad happens to us, we will massacre you all! Clear?" threatens the soldier.

Nong Daniel overhears some soldiers interrogating another farmer. "What's the purpose of your farm? Why is it so wide? Is it for the NPA?" accuses the soldier.

"After the typhoon, the farmers of this community united so that we can recover. We immediately farmed our plots in order to feed our families. Food is the primary problem of the people here. That's why a wide communal farm is our solution," the farmer articulates. "Food for the communists!" shouts the soldier. The farmer does not reply. They restrain themselves.

"How true is it that the NPA stayed here in your community during the typhoon?" another accusation from some other soldier.

"They're everywhere in the countryside, sir. But, they don't stay long. They just pass by. They go to the mountains.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13

K is for Kahoy

by Mayang Andres

The sound of chainsaw came to a halt when the two men approached Noy Teodoro and Oring where they were sawing logs.

Noy Teodoro realized it was their neighbors. Their militia. Almost two weeks had passed after Typhoon Pablo. They haven't seen them until now.

"Good morning, brod!" Noy Teodoro greeted his neighbors.

"Good morning, Noy!" members of the militia replied.

"Was it just now that you've been around here?" said Oring, Noy Teodoro's nephew.

"Thankfully you're okay, brod."

"Thank heavens, you're all okay too. We all survived the storm! We've only been around these parts today. We followed where the sound of chainsaw was coming from," said Benny, the commanding officer of the militia in the area. He was with the other militia, which was about platoon-sized in number.

"We're surveying the areas damaged by the storm," Benny added.

He looked at the logs Noy Teodoro and Oring were working on.

"Haven't you attended the assembly in the barrio last week, brod?" asked Ingko, the political instructor of their militia.

"We were not able to attend, brod, because after the storm, my family and I went to our relatives in the other province. When we came back, we visited our little hut and the chainsaw we left there. Both were okay, so we looked around for fallen trees to sell. My nephew here knew a buyer interested in the logs."

"That's why you didn't know what the assembly discussed about the fallen trees," said Ingko.

"What did they agree on, brod? I was oblivious about it all because we went straight to our farm when we got back," said Noy Teodoro. "We were sawing logs to sell so we can buy some rice and food to eat. The remaining wood will be used to repair our house. Surely it will be okay to sell wood for now with all the uprooted trees?"

"That was the big debate in the assembly, what to do with the uprooted trees," said Benny.

"But it would go against the policy we all agreed on in the assembly last time. It's been two years when the log ban was implemented. It's been a long process. Even before the storm, we've been trying to smooth out problems on small-scale logging," Ingko explained.

"Is that so? No wonder I couldn't hear any other chainsaw except ours," said Teodoro. "What did they all agreed on during the assembly?"

"All of the fallen trees will be used for the rehabilitation program to rebuild the school, the houses in the community, to build a clinic, a barangay hall, a chapel, and other facilities needed in the barrio and the community. We also agreed to rehabilitate our forests," said Benny.



▲ **EVEN THOUGH WE ARE KIDS.** In many areas in Davao de Oro (then Compostela Valley), even underage children are forced to help their families earn a living through small-scale logging. This is one of the pressing problems that was tackled in the base areas where organs of political power in the barrio and municipal levels (KRBs and KRMs) were established.

"The assembly has also agreed on a way to process the timber faster for the needs of the community. There will be a separate meeting on how to carry out this program on reforestation," said Ka Ingko.

"Is that why Imok and Densyo were going from house to house? To gather everyone for a meeting?" wondered Noy Teodoro.

"There's actually a meeting today since the school repairs are almost finished. Next in the agenda will be repairing the houses of the residents as well as discussions regarding the uprooted trees," Benny replied.

"Alas! This is the trouble when we fail to attend our meetings. What I'm doing is against the agreement of the barrio. I should be arrested! What would my case be?" joked Noy Teodoro.

All of them laughed.

"It's understandable, brod. You were away. You didn't have ill-intentions. It's a good thing we came after we heard the sound of the chainsaw," Ingko clarified. Noy Teodoro lit his roll of tobacco.

"We'll be in trouble if we lose all our forests. Look around us, with all the uprooted trees? The big loggers already cut most of the trees down before and Typhoon Pablo delivered the finishing blow. What will happen to our water sources now?" agreed Noy Teodoro.

"That's true, brod. That's why rainforestation will also be discussed in the meeting today," said Benny.

"Rainforestation? What's that?"

"A campaign to plant more trees to restore our rainforests. We already had this program before, but we

need to reenforce it, especially now we've lost most of our forest cover," said Ingko

"A good thing we could do, brod, is to build a nursery for our KRB, so that we have enough supply of seedlings for our program. We also need to assign people to take care of our nursery according to our program. People who will ensure that our trees are well taken care of. In our old program, we did not make a nursery and what our neighbors planted were mostly commercial trees. That's why we need to be in one mind with those who used to plant trees for selling," said Noy Teodoro.

"That's right. That's a good suggestion. Our priority are fruit trees as well as trees that can help restore our watersheds and sources of water," Ingko said.

"And we need to review our standing policies, because it seems we have forgotten them already. Every tree that we cut down for the needs of the community must be replaced with 20 new ones. Also, it is still not allowed to cut trees 30 meters from the

river," Benny added. "Every grupo sa balangay [Solid mass organization chapters or HOMs are composed of several chapter groups or GB—Ed.] aims to replant 100 trees every month," Ingko said.

"I agree, brod," said Noy Teodoro. "But, brod, we urgently need food. How do we eat if we can't sell the uprooted trees?"

"We've worked that out, brod. Everyone who joins

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... We already enforced a logban before the storm, and now it must all the more be reenforced. Let's triple our efforts to plant trees in our watersheds. And we should be more vigilant of the lies of big foreign concessionaires and the reactionary government about their large-scale mining programs and plantations..”

Minggay and the baby in the orokan

by Teri Jose

It wasn't gloomy anymore and the strong wind has slowly subsided. It was only drizzling. Eloy stood up and looked around him. The rest of his family also got up. Their surroundings had suddenly become unfamiliar to them. Nothing was standing, neither house nor a tree nor even a person. It was as though the entire place was treated with herbicide, nothing green could be seen, like a wildfire had burned the ground. But all of them were alive, Minggay thought gratefully.

The crowd had gathered as though suddenly awakened from a deep sleep. It didn't take long for the cries for help to pierce the air. Eloy and the other neighbors ran towards Tiyo Seryo whose feet were pressed under a fallen log. There was a deep wound but they tied a cloth around it immediately. The cries for help then came in quick succession.

An entire family that huddled under their collapsed house. A mother who looked for her lost child. The hypertensive who blacked out. The husband who went back to save his carabao but couldn't cross the already flooded river. A pregnant woman already feeling contractions earlier than her due date.

"A lot of people need help," Eloy thought. He looked around and saw his young neighbor Undo.

"Do, find your Ate Minggay, tell her a lot of people are wounded and need help. Hurry up!" Eloy commanded.

Undo came back lugging their youngest as Minggay trailed after him, slinging her medical bag. Trained by the NPA, Minggay is a medic in their barrio and was given some medical supplies. She took an oath to look after the wellness of her fellow residents and provide relief for their illnesses. Part of the job was to likewise take care of the Red fighters who were sick or had been wounded. Minggay swore to do what it took to forward the revolution that would free the oppressed like farmers such as her.

"Inday has taken charge of the house and her little sister," Minggay said. "Where are the patients?" she added quickly.

Eloy pointed out to the crowd. To be sure, all of them sustained injuries, others only had bruises, but there were some who had worse wounds. Minggay asked those that were not severely injured to fetch water to wash their wounds and clean themselves. Minggay took charge of those who could not stand up and treated them one by one as well as she could. She used her disinfection supplies sparingly because there were no more *hagonoy** or guava leaves around. Her antibiotics were reserved for the worst cases.

"Minggay! A child is buried here! He's not breathing; he must be dead!"

Minggay hurriedly went to where the child was. The neighbor who dug up the child from the mud was cradling the latter, as the child's mother stood on the side, near fainting from worry and fatigue.

Minggay laid the child on the ground and cleaned his face. It was Potpot, one of the most energetic children in the community. He was not breathing and was turning pale. Minggay put her ear on Potpot's chest and she could hear a faint beat. She pressed her ear to hear clearly. It was a heartbeat! She hurriedly opened the child's mouth and fingered out the mud that blocked his airway. She pressed the child's nose to squeeze out



SI MINGGAY UG ANG PUYA SA OROKAN

NI Teri Jose

Hayang na ug hinayhinay nang hinuay ang hangin. Taliglak na lang ang ulan. Nibarag si Eloy ug nagsul sa hangin palibot. Nibarag pud ang hangin pamilya. Wala silay malihan sa lang nakita. Wala nay gitindog, balay man o kahoy o tawo. Ang palibot daw gjanigan og roundup, wala'y ni usa ka bende nga matang, murag gisilaban ang saykahan. Pero buni silang tanan, dakong pasalamat ni Minggay.

Nagsugod nag tapok ang mga tawo nga daw naimlungawan. Wala madugay nagsugod na ang mga sangpit nga nagpakitabang. Gidagan ni Eloy ug sa ubang silingan si Tiyo Seryo nga nalugutan sa batang ang tili. Dano ang samad ug dyan gibaat nila ni og nuog. Sunod-sunod na ang mga sangpit. Usa ka pamilyahan lalam sa hangin balay nga nahugmak. Ang bata nga dili makita sa hangin inahan. Ang haylaron nga nalipog. Ang bano nga naglawas sa kabaw pero karon dili na makatabok sa hilabihan ka dakong mga sapa. Ang buntis nga naghihlab ang tiyan pero kulang pa sa bulan.

"Daghang kinahangiang tabangan," huanhuna ni Eloy. Nilingi siya ug nakita nia ang batang-ang silingan nga si Undo.

"Do, adto sa Ate Minggay nimo, ingna daghang samaron ug tabangonon diri sa sentro. Pagdali!" hangin huogot nga mando.

Nibalik si Undo nga kabila na ang hangin gamay ug si Minggay nagsunod, dala ang bag sa medical. Si Minggay usa ka medical sa banyo nga gibansay sa mga hukbo ug ghatagan og pipila ka gamit. Nanumpa kini sa hangin taban nga mosubaybay sa kahimog sa hangin sig-ka-tawo ug moatiman sa mga balatan niini. Lahio na pud sa hangin pagpangumpas ang pagpilitman sa hukbo kon masakit kini o masamaman. Nanumpa si Minggay nga buhaton kini tanan alang sa pag-eksang sa rebolusyon nga maoy molinglawas nilang mga kabaw nga mag-uma.

"Si Inday na ang nag-otiman sa balay ug sa hangin manghat nga usa," ingon ni Minggay. "Asa ang mga pasiyento?" hangin sumpay.

Gidulo ni Eloy ang mga tawo. Kon baot huanhunan, ang tanan sa lalam samdan sa bagyo, naa lay gamay ra ug naa puy dakodiko pud. Ang wala kaayo nagbabihan ginagan ni Minggay nga mangitag tubig aron mahugasan ang hangin nga samad ug malimpyo ang hangin man lawas. Ang mga tili na

katindog, hangin glassa-usa og hitam ug gipangtambalan tanan sa hangin naturan ug tanan sa hangin makaya. Dinagnot kaayo ang paggamit niya sa mga panglimpyo kay wala nay masaligang hanginoy ug bayabas sa palibot. Ang antibiotic ginserbia niya sa kinagbabihan gayud nga kaso.

"Minggay! Naay batang nalubogon diri! Wa na gaginhawa, patay na siguro ni!"

Dalidali nalecto si Minggay sa nag-sangot. Ang bata gijawas sa silingan nga nakakalot niini sa lapok, ang inahan, naa sa kiliran kakuyapon sa kagool ug sa kaisapoy.

Gihigda ni Minggay ang bata sa yuta ug dalidali nga gilimpyuhan ang nawang. Si Potpot main day, usa sa pinakalubog bata sa komunidad.

Wala na kini gaginhawa ug lagum na pud. Gibutang ni Minggay ang hangin dalunggan sa duhan ni Potpot ug murag naa siyay madungog nga hinay kaayo nga pitik. Giduot niya hangin dalunggan. Naay gud. Dalidali niyang gibali ang bata sa bata ug gikuot ang lapok nga napumalok ditto. Gipalit ang hangin aron igula pud ang lapok. Nihanggab siyang dakong ug gibutang ang hangin bata sa bata sa bata ug niluga og kusog.

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Pasa Bilis!

Hulyo 2013

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Unbeknownst to the residents, Red fighters had been trying to reach the community because they worried about the masses since the typhoon started. Not minding their own terror and troubles in trying to reach the community, the comrades knew for sure that the masses had been more terrorized because of the calamity.

more mud. She took a deep breath and blew air onto the child's mouth.

She took another deep breath and blew again. Twice. Thrice. Four times. Minggay's eyes threatened to swell with tears. "Pot, come on. Don't leave us, Pot," she pleaded. Another deep breath and another blow. Five. Six times.

On Minggay's seventh try, the child suddenly coughed and spluttered mud out of his mouth and nose. He coughed continuously but he was breathing now. Minggay turned the child on his side and covered him with a sack she eyed near her. She wasn't aware that a crowd had gathered around her and when she raised her head, she saw tears of joy and heard cheers for the life, which just a few minutes before had almost been lost, that was unexpectedly saved.

"Kas!" Minggay heard the most cherished greeting in all the world.

Unbeknownst to the residents, Red fighters had been trying to reach the community because they worried about the masses since the typhoon started. Not minding their own terror and troubles in trying to reach the community, the comrades knew for sure that the masses had been more terrorized because of

the calamity. And true enough, the masses welcomed the Red army as though the comrades' presence were a salve for their distress.

"Kas, help us heave this log!"

"Kas, I can't find my mother!"

"Kas, it's very cold!"

Minggay knew who she was looking for and when she saw him, she ran towards him and greeted him.

"Kas Bunso, I ran out of betadine! I think Tiyo Seryo has a fracture! Sonya's having contractions, but she's still in her eighth month! And Potpot, Kas, he's now breathing but still unconscious! The children, Kas, what do we do with them?" Minggay rattled breathlessly. She felt like a heavy log had been heaved off of her chest when she saw Bunso, the NPA's platoon medic.

"Okay, Nay, let's see them one by one," said Bunso gently as he embraced Minggay. Bunso called for the other medical officers to hear the rest of Minggay's updates and take care of the patients.

Around them, other comrades had put up rain curtains and gathered the people under the tents. They placed wooden boards under tree trunks for the masses to sit on. They also took out their dry clothes (which were always dry because comrades pack all their clothes in plastic cellophane before stowing them inside their backpacks) and distributed them among the community. Other comrades started cooking rice from their emergency supply loads, and who knows where they found dry firewood that time!

Calm gradually settled on everyone inside the rain curtains. The children, finally dry and warm, started to bustle as children do and the elders were smiling now. Stories on what every one did when the strong winds pummeled the surroundings started to unravel and the experiences, which only a few hours ago had been some kind of nightmare, suddenly sounded quite comical.

Like Isyot who was almost blown away by the wind but had the wits to hold on tightly to a coconut tree. Or when Aning tried to cram her clothes inside a tattered bag. Or the house that was rocked left and right but never collapsed, though its posts were damaged. The comrades patiently listened to all of these, aware that it was a way for the masses to alleviate their trauma.

"Comrades, help!"

Eloy eyed an orokan box floating in the flooded river. Even in the gush of the river, the cries of a baby could be clearly heard. It was difficult but Eloy waded in the river, tethered to Kas Erning, another Red fighter. The masses and comrades hurriedly linked themselves together to form a human chain until Eloy was able to grab the orokan. It cannot be understated how dangerous the whole affair was, what with the flooded river and all the other things that were drifting in the river; but in the end, the united strength of the masses and the comrades was able to pull everyone back to the safety of the riverbank.

There was really a baby inside the plastic box. Less than a year old, Kas Bunso thought. The baby was red-faced from crying, perhaps due to coldness and hunger, innocent of what had transpired around it. Minggay was already holding a dry cloth. She took the baby and wondered to whom it belonged to. Under the rain curtain, the masses silently formed a circle around the child.

"Next time, Kas Erning, please don't grab me by

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13

“The revolutionary forces and the New People’s Army under the Communist Party of the Philippines have persevered in seeing to the full recovery of affected base areas and guerilla zones. Hundreds of thousands of revolutionary forces and their families have survived the impact of Typhoon Pablo not because of the reactionary state’s intervention, but because they militantly struggled and rebuilt their communities, farms and forests. Revolutionary forces and Party members, with the deployed NPA units, have built more organs of political power in a frequency and intensity meant to effectively address the debilitating effects of Typhoon Pablo.

From the statement “Typhoon Pablo 1st year anniversary marks US-Aquino regime’s complete failure,” NDF-SMR, December 4, 2013.

K IS FOR KAHoy FROM P. 9

the communal farm is prioritized to get a ration of food. There are schedules already so make sure to sign up as soon as possible,” replied Ingko.

“Thank you, brod! Once again, I apologize for all this,” gestured Noy Teodoro to the logs they were working on.

“We must all be reminded, brod. We already enforced a logban before the storm, and now it must all the more be reenforced. Let’s triple our efforts to plant trees in our watersheds. And we should be more vigilant of the lies of big foreign concessionaires and the reactionary government about their large-scale mining programs and plantations,” said Ka Ingko.

“That’s right, brod. We should not be shortsighted in thinking of just the present. Now more than ever, we need to think of the future!” said Noy Teodoro.

“Well then, we shouldn’t tarry. We have an important meeting to attend. Something we shouldn’t miss!” said Oring, already gathering his things to go.

“What a bright future we’ll have!” quipped Noy Teodoro, brimming with enthusiasm.

All of them walked toward the assembly in the barrio. ★

First published on Pasa Bilis! March 2015 issue.



◀ **POST-HARVEST FACILITIES.** In different areas across the region during the rehabilitation campaign, some of the projects of KRB (Barrio Revolutionary Committee) and KRM (Municipal Revolutionary Committee) included the construction of facilities such as solar dryers and corn and rice mills. On the other hand, campaigns such as reducing the cost of milling of rice and corn and raising farmgate prices of products of peasants and Lumad were actively carried out.

▶ First published in Pasa Bilis! July 2013 issue.



A CONVERSATION WITH A PEASANT ACTIVIST

We will struggle towards the true aspirations of the poor!

(Editors’ Note: Months after Typhoon Pablo, the staff of Pasa Bilis! visited guerilla bases in the region to know the situation of the masses and the territories severely affected by the calamity. One of the most enjoyable was the conversation with a peasant activist in Barrio X. In the middle of a vast rice field, Pasa Bilis! recorded this exchange.)

Pasa Bilis! (PB): Good day, Tay! How have you been faring here?

Tay Binong (TB): Good day to you! We’re good. It’s nice that you visited our place. Coffee?

PB: I had coffee earlier. Where’s Nanay?

TB: She’s with the other women in a meeting. We’re now slowly rebuilding after what we’ve gone through.

PB: Have the houses been repaired here?

TB: They have. But of course, the comrades helped us. The entire mass organization also pitched in the work... Even if our homes are just temporary for now, we’ll prioritize food production. Production work... to alleviate hunger. This is what we agreed upon in our assembly.

PB: Assembly?

TB: The gathering of the barrio people to discuss ways to address the calamity. The extreme hunger. This is an assembly of the peasants’ organization in the barrio—the HOM of PKM.

PB: HOM of PKM?

TB (teasing): Are you sure you’re from *Pasa Bilis!*? You should already know this! It’s Hingpit nga Organisasyong Masa (solid mass organization) or HOM here in the countryside. The PKM—Pambansang Katipunan ng mga Magsasaka. This is the revolutionary organization that confronts the

problems peasants face. For example, rebuilding our community after Pablo.

PB: It’s really wonderful that the poor are wielding power. Development and fast rehabilitation from the storm’s onslaught is definitely attainable.

TB: Yes, that’s because of our campaign to solve hunger. Our crops had been damaged, and we can’t rely on meager relief from the government. Only a small quantity of relief goods

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There have been news that large, foreign mining and plantations will encroach... We won’t allow them. Those are not our interests, those are the interests of capitalists and the government of the elite.

reached our community. The radio said that many donated, but no one that we know received substantial help. The government might have pocketed them, or Dinky Soliman of the DSWD. So what we did, to ensure we survive, we launched a communal farming campaign.

PB: Oh, and how about your school?

TB: Yes, the school was also destroyed by the typhoon. We were supposed to take shelter there, but the roof was blown away. After the typhoon, we agreed during our meeting that the

school was one of our first priorities for repair. We assigned people daily to ensure the school’s repair so that our children’s schooling wouldn’t be hindered. The work is led by the Committee on Education.

PB: The woman at that house, she had a BP (blood pressure) set with her? What’s her job?

TB: That’s Rima. She is the head of the Committee on Health. She tends to the elderly and regularly checks their blood pressure and other vital signs. We launched a short medical training among our members in order for the health campaign to be in full swing. To avoid disease among children, the health committee constructed comfort rooms. They also learned about herbal medicines, how to make cough syrup, and many more.

PB: So, the committees in your organization are functioning?

TB: That’s what we are striving for. We strengthened our defense campaign, and the people’s militia is active here. There have been news that large, foreign mining and plantations will encroach... We won’t allow them. Those are not our interests, those are the interests of businessmen and the government of the elite. Because of that, we heard that the military will launch operations to clear the area. The AFP is really the soldiers of the rich... And our members realize this. As chairman of the HOM, I strive to educate the people.

PB: How long has your HOM been around?

TB: It’s been a while now. The HOM-PKM was established after the SPL (local Party branch) meeting concluded that most of the peasants here are already organized. We swiftly organized and mobilized our relatives and

45 lanterns for the Party's anniversary!

ni Viel Santos

HINTERLANDS OF DAVAO DEL NORTE—After a couple of hours of traversing hills and seemingly circuitous routes, from some distance, one can already see the lights emanating from the venue. And from the nearby river, one can hear the hubbub from the place—laughter, claps and ruckus of agitation from the masses and the comrades.

It's still the night before the anniversary, yet it already seemed like a fiesta because of the joyous celebration from the attendees. Just like a fiesta, and not just because of the pig and the carabao that were slaughtered for the celebration; it's a feast of victory and successful achievements in overcoming difficulties and expanding the base, a year after the onslaught of Typhoon Pablo and exacerbated by the relentless attacks of the enemy in the area.

Hardly anyone slept. Even at the strike of midnight as December 26 rolled around, one can still hear the laughter and merriment. The activities that day was back-to-back—the basketball tournament participated in by seven teams from each barrio revolutionary committee (KRB) and one team from the Red army; a mass wedding of seven couples officiated by the Party.

At dawn on December 26, the merriment reached its peak as 45 lanterns had been lit and flown at the basketball court. One *masa* exclaimed as she hurriedly woke her sibling, "Hurry! Wake up! It's marvelous! The lanterns are like fireflies!" Smiling and clapping, they gazed at the floating lanterns in the sky, as the entire scene was backed by the beating of drums. According to a comrade, the lanterns symbolized the life and struggle and the bright future of the revolution. Yes, the Communist Party is now 45 years old!

The celebrations for the Party's 45th anniversary was formally opened here with a tribute to all the martyrs who gave their lives to the revolution. With songs and presentations, the masses and the comrades gave salute to the martyrs for their highest form of sacrifice—dedicating their lives.

After the tribute to the martyrs, the anniversary program immediately followed. The oppression against and the resistance of the Filipino people were highlighted through songs and cultural presentations from the masses and the Red fighters. More so the sacrifices, struggle and victories of the masses and comrades in order to expand the base and advance the revolution. After the program, the basketball tournament continued, followed by several parlor games.

The celebration continued well into the night. Each KRB presented its own cultural number. And after all the long list of presentations, a makeshift movie house was erected where videos about the revolution were screened.

By one comrade's account, even though enemy movement was relentless, this did not deter the expansion of the guerilla base (*bager*) and the increase in new NPA recruits and Party members. And to think the enemy carried-out brigade-directed operations in these hinterlands. The enemy deployed DRC-sized [*The Armed Forces of the Philippine's elite Division Reconnaissance Company—Ed.*] troops in the three fronts here since July.

But this did not perturb the comrades and the mass base. For one comrade, "Despite being attacked by numerous enemy troops in the area, being bombarded by artillery, being bombed from above by Bronco helicopters, or when we hardly had anything to eat, the Red fighters survived. It's because the comrades could see and feel the tireless and fearless support of the masses. The deep support of the masses made all the difference in the Red army's continued endurance!"

And yes, amid the brigade-directed operations of the enemy, Red fighters carried out 22 tactical offensives. Neither the intense military operations nor the enemy's superior war materiel and training defeated the Red army's guerilla warfare.

The fascist troops sustained 41 casualties, while only four Red fighters were martyred. In fact, two new NPA

platoons were added in this subregion.

While the Red army actively faced the fascist troops, the mass base continued to expand. This year, sixteen KRBs were established. The Municipal Revolutionary Committee (KRM) was also organized.

Strengthening economic work among the masses became key in establishing the base—food production through widespread communal labor and antifeudal mass campaigns. In fact, through the comrade's campaign to ban logging and prioritizing "food in our backyard," overcoming the difficulties brought about by Typhoon Pablo became easier for the masses in these areas. Other KRBs (Barrio Revolutionary Committees) have already harvested their crops several times; others are now excited to harvest their many hectares of corn, vegetables and fruits.

Mobilizing the masses in their great number became possible through massive recruitment of Party members from the ranks of the mass organizations. And in 2013, two new sub-section committees were built here. "The number of Party members who work to advance the revolution increased," said one comrade.

And true enough, the reactionary government's Oplan Bayanihan and its attack against the revolutionary movement certainly failed.

Like the 45 lanterns that were flown at sunrise during the Party's anniversary, it's evident that the future and inevitable victory of the revolution is bright! ★

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STRUGGLE FROM P. 7

the time being but for long-term. In our discussions, fruit-bearing trees like cacao, coffee and rambutan mature in only two years. That jump-started our two-year plan for rehabilitation. How much more the fast-growing *buyo-buyo* and banana trees? In six months time, you can already tie a hammock between *buyo-buyo* trees or boil and eat the *cardava* variety of bananas. You can already take shade.

That became the basis for the design of our rehabilitation of farms, fruit trees and reforestation. The reforestation will be steered by the people's militia and the revolutionary youth organization in the community. We will plant trees in watersheds. We will replant endemic trees such as *lawaan* and *almaciga*. We will also build nurseries for fruit trees like what other NPA units did in other areas.

In our Party branch and mass organization meetings, there are so many practical problems that we need to address in order for the rehabilitation campaign to take off, like farm tools and sources for seedlings for the communal farms. But we also agreed that for now, whatever tools that can be used to dig and however limited our seedlings on hand, we will make do. The communal farm accepts the work of everyone—kids, elderly, middle-aged, men or women.

Anyway, everyone's share of the harvest will be based on his or her workpoints or one's participation in the collective farming. We will set aside some portion of the yield for seed banking, another portion for the needs of the organization, a portion for emergency fund for the community and the rest will be divided to each individual according to his or her workpoints.

On our first day in the communal farm, we managed to open around three hectares and on the fourth day, we already planted rice. Around 60 to 100 people participated that time. It was fun! Though we could hear each other's rumbling stomachs!

This coming May, come visit our community. It's looking like a good yield for our rice field. We hope you can come by. In our community, you will find the masses overcoming the effects of the calamity through the struggle.

Great things are in store if we organize and struggle under proletarian guidance and leadership. We still have other campaign designs, plans and clear goals with regards to wellness, education and culture. True, it's arduous and complicated, but in the difficult struggle, we know victory will be sweet. ★

* SP - Local Party branch

* KRB - Barrio Revolutionary Committee

WE WILL STRUGGLE FROM P. 11

neighbors because we have a common interest and struggle against those who threaten our livelihood and against land grabbers and landlords.

Furthermore, there's this CADC* which is a program of the NCIP*. They establish tribal councils that are essentially machineries for displacing us from our land to benefit big mines and plantations. At this time, we have organized 122 households that comprise about 500 residents in our area. We have a common interest to defend our land..

Also at this time, because of the mass movement's dynamism, we managed to establish a sectoral women's organization, the HOM-MAKIBAKA*. For the youth, we have the HOM-KM* that is composed of young people aged 13 to 35 years old.

PB: The masses here are right in choosing you as their chairman.

TB: Uy, hehehe. I am just a chairman, which means that I serve the people. They chose me to ensure the implementation of our plans and to mobilize our constituents.

PB: Is it hard to be chairman?

TB: It's truly a challenge. It's no matter since I already have wrinkly forehead. Every now and then, I troubleshoot the problems and difficulties in the implementation of our tasks. We should always be able to effectively mobilize both the relatively backwards and advanced segments in our organization, even among those in the leadership.

If we don't have the support of our constituents, we'll become mere weak sticks that break easily.

Because the organization's leaders and constituents are united in their stand and interests, with the guidance and support of comrades, we will persevere through storms. We will continue to wage revolution. ★

*CADC - Certificate of Ancestral Domain Claim

*NCIP - National Commission on Indigenous People

*MAKIBAKA - Malayang Kilusan ng Bagong Kababaihan

*KM - Kabataang Makabayan

MINGGAY FROM P. 10

my waist because I'm ticklish there!" Eloy suddenly bursted out, breaking the serene silence. And a loud, collective laughter erupted from the masses who successfully struggled together against the strongest typhoon in their history.

Outside, the rain had already subsided into a light drizzle and the warmth of the sun finally peaked through. ★

*Orokan is a plastic-made chest usually used for household storage

*Hagonoy - herbal medicine used to disinfect wounds

NONG DANIEL, THE COMMUNAL FARM AND THE PEOPLE'S MILITIA FROM P. 8

You'll find them there," says another farmer standing beside Nong Daniel.

"That's why we're staying here with-in your midst so the NPA won't dare attack us," says the soldier.

"But that's a violation of the CAR-HRIHL*, sir! You're turning us into human shields. You'll be held accountable. Military soldiers aren't allowed to stay in communities," cries a young woman who's a member of the association. She couldn't help herself.

"We don't care about that CARHRIHL. Just file cases against us," the soldier replies.

"Nong, is everyone ready for the plan?" one farmer turns to Nong Daniel. Nong Daniel nods in determination.

The masses see that the soldiers are still laughing. The thugs write rude graffiti on the barangay hall's walls. They put up their hammocks after they had eaten.

The residents in the community already know what to do in this scenario. A mother grows nervous, and develops loose bowels. The community medics massage and do acupuncture on her.

"We're still safe so far. We're having chicken here. Hurry up so we can start stage two of our program. Over."

"Roger. Wait for us. Big fallen trees are

ONSLAUGHT OF TYPHOON PABLO FROM P. 3

by the US and Japan, in cahoots with local big bourgeois compradors such as the Valderama, Alcantara and Andres Soriano of PICOP.

A few days before Typhoon Pablo made landfall, Noynoy Aquino peevishly remarked that "this is not a joke," when the people did not immediately agree to evacuate. It must be made clear that instead of blaming the people, he should have immediately rescinded his very lax policies on mining, logging and agribusiness plantations. In issuing EO 79, the onerous Mining Act of 1995 only exacerbated and exposed the Aquino government's complicity with companies owned by foreign monopoly capitalists at the expense of the people whom he supposedly calls his boss.

It is clear that it is not a joke when it is the people themselves who repeatedly called for the immediate halt to the operations and pull-out of the large mining activities of Xstrata-SMI in the borders of South Cotabato, Davao del Sur and Sultan Kudarat; Toronto Ventures, Inc. in Zamboanga; THPAL, PGMCO, Phelix Mining and SRMI in all provinces of Agusan-Surigao, which clearly pose threats to the affected communities of Lumad, Moro, peasants and fisherfolk. It is clearly not a joke when the people themselves have been against

blocking our path," the voice from a soldier's vhf radio.

The soldiers sleep soundly in the barangay hall. They are exhausted. They haven't slept for five days.

At dawn, the residents come out of their houses one by one. Nong Daniel is at the head of the procession, followed by the children and the elderly. Carefully, they trail towards town. They figure they'll arrive at the town center by 6:00 in the morning. They will air their community's situation to the public. The way is dark and gloomy. But, it would be darker and gloomier if they stay in their community garrisoned by soldiers.

Pak! Pak! Pak! Boom! Boom!

Nong Daniel and the masses hear the gunshots from afar. *It's them! It's them!* Nong Daniel smiles to himself. Their steps suddenly have more energy. Kas Karding, Nong Daniel's brother and one of the people's militia, has surely made the fascists jump out of their hammocks, scrambling to escape the volley of gunfire. ★

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*CARHRIHL - Comprehensive Agreement on the Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law

HUNAN FROM P. 14

On the other hand, the peasant movement in the region did not cease in merely taking the reactionary government to task for its criminal negligence in the midst of calamity. The masses advanced their unity and collective action further: they established the people's democratic government.

Tens of thousands of peasants and Lumad comprised many revolutionary committees in the barrio and municipal levels while revolutionary mass organizations increased hundred-fold. In almost all and on every level of these organs of power and organizations, women and the youth held active leadership roles.

Hundreds of hectares of land were opened for communal farms in order to achieve self-sufficiency. Programs for education, health and culture were widely carried out. Most of all, hundreds joined the Red army in order to defend the achievements of the masses.

In the sphere of class struggle

The intensification of peasant mass movement in the path of agrarian revolution remains to be one of the immediate challenges to all revolutionaries in the region. The rich experiences during Typhoon Pablo and the peasant movement that spawned during this period show our grasp of initiative in bringing every objective condition that emerges to the sphere of class struggle.

Only in launching militant mass movement, in all types and forms, in every conceivable issue, in any circumstance, can the oppressed class witness the fascist and rottenness of the semifeudal and semicolonial system and the aptness of advancing the people's war.

As we face the new decade, it is imperative that we ignite the revolutionary tradition and militant peasant movement that Comrade Mao witnessed in 1927 Hunan and which jolted our region in 2012 and the supervening years.

First published in Pasa Bilis! October 2021 issue. ★

Unite and save the environment!

Unite and struggle against wholesale plunder of our natural resources by imperialists and the local ruling class! ★

Hunan, Typhoon Pablo and the militant peasant movement

Eighty-five years span the period between Comrade Mao Zedong's investigation of the peasant movement in Hunan in March 1927 and the historical militant peasant movement in the wake of Typhoon Pablo's onslaught in Southern Mindanao in December 2012.

In this series of articles, we looked back on the achievements of the peasants of Hunan and the difficulties they encountered in the face of criticisms hurled against their associations. We close the series by relating the experiences of the peasants venerated by Mao to the experiences of Typhoon Pablo victims that inspired other calamity victims across the country.

Pay attention to the well-being of the masses

In the succeeding months after Typhoon Pablo, the masses in the region showed us that instead of being overwhelmed by their misery, it was more correct to undertake militant peasant movement not only in overcoming the calamity but also in advancing the people's war.

How did we accomplish this?

Like the peasant associations of Hunan, we sharply identified the land issue as key in order to mobilize thousands of calamity victims for the revolution. We succinctly raised the problem of worsening poverty as a result of the calamity to the basic problem of feudalism.

We effectively held the revolutionary mass line in launching painstaking social investigation, organizing poor peasants and mobilizing them in their biggest number in various forms and methods.

In our experience, just as Mao discovered for himself in Hunan, the revolutionary organizations of the poor peasants became key in realizing great achievements.

Counterrevolutionary theory

The peasants' rejection of the trite "victim mentality" and merely begging for relief goods manifested their militant spirit hitherto unseen by the ruling class in the region in the face of a natural calamity. Like what happened in Hunan, the peasants in the region "disturbed the gentry's sweet dreams."

"Thieves! Plunderers!" These were the accusations thrown against the victims of Typhoon Pablo when they confiscated the hundreds of sacks of rice and other relief goods that were stacked in the regional offices of the Department of Social Welfare and Development in Davao City.

After the reactionary govern-

ment refused to deliver on its promises on several occasions, the victims successfully raided the DSWD warehouse despite the threats posed by armed policemen. Like the Hunan peasants, the victims of Typhoon Pablo manifested the "terrible or excessive" strength of the united oppressed masses.

Who was more "terrorized" by said deluge of the peasants? It was the reactionary bureaucrats like former DSWD Sec. Dinky Soliman and [then] Davao City Mayor Sara Duterte and the fascist armed forces of the ruling class like Bato dela Rosa, who at the time was the chief of the Davao City police.

In his criticism of those who denounced the actions of the Hunan peasants as "excessive," Mao showed that said view was evidently a means to dampen the strength of the peasants in order to advance the interests of the landlords and preserve the old feudal order and impede the establishment of the new democratic system.

"This is clearly a counter-revolutionary theory," judged Mao.

Political power

The most potent lesson of the similar experiences of the Hunan peasants in 1927 and the peasant calamity victims in our region in 2012 and the succeeding years is the widespread creation of organs of political power as a result of the militant peasant movement.

The peasant movement in Hunan struggled against the political authority of the ruling class and its feudal-bourgeois culture. From smashing the political and economic power of the landlords to resisting male and clan authority, the peasant organizations struggled in order to shatter the old exploitative society and establish new democracy rooted in the interests and welfare of the oppressed.

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Like what happened in Hunan, the peasants in the region "disturbed the gentry's sweet dreams."

