



ANG

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CPP successfully implements policy on campaigning in revolutionary territories

The Party, the New People's Army and the revolutionary movement nationwide are firmly and successfully carrying out policies that cover campaigning for reactionary elections within revolutionary territories. These policies are being implemented in the interest of the people and the revolutionary movement.

The influx of numerous voluntary applications for Permits-to-Campaign (PTC) by candidates and political parties, which began a few months ago, is a clear indication of the broad recognition of the existence, strength and policies of revolutionary political power. Malacañang, the AFP and the PNP are powerless to prevent it.

In carrying out this policy, it is obvious that the Party and the revolutionary forces do not recognize the reactionary political system and the elections that it holds. Nevertheless, we recognize that we have yet to prevail over the ruling system, and that people's democracy and reactionary power coexist in revolutionary territories in vast areas of the country.

Thus, we still give leeway to politicians to campaign in revolutionary territories within the framework of

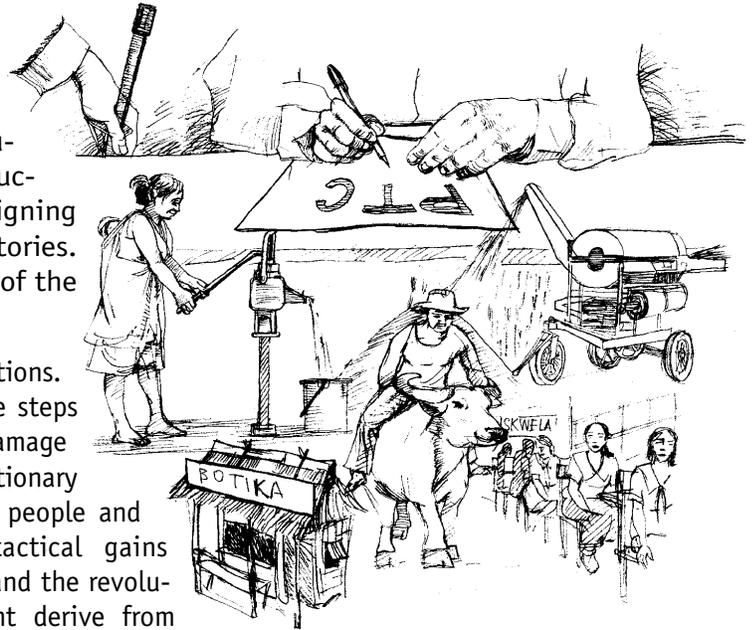
reactionary elections. However, we take steps to reduce the damage wrought by reactionary elections on the people and maximize the tactical gains that the people and the revolutionary movement derive from it.

In this regard, we require all candidates and parties to first acquire Permits to Campaign or seek official permission from revolutionary authorities to enter and campaign in territories under revolutionary control and influence.

In applying for PTC, politicians submit themselves to revolutionary political power. They give guarantees that they will do nothing to harm the people and revolutionary movement and will abide by the security guide-

lines enforced within the revolutionary territories, including the prohibition of bringing in the military and police and bringing in their own firearms or armed goons.

The funds and other material things garnered through the PTC will benefit the people and the movement in the revolutionary territories. Part of it will be used for the operations and needs of the Party, NPA and organs of revolutionary government and mass organizations.



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A significant part will also be set aside for the economic, health, education, literacy and cultural programs and projects of the people in the revolutionary territories. This way, the people are able to derive concrete benefits from the reactionary election far beyond empty promises and insulting bribes of a few pesos.

In dealing with politicians and their parties, we apply the principles and policies of the revolutionary united front, which includes forming alliances with progressive, patriotic and propeople elements and forming tactical alliances with secondary reactionaries in order to isolate and oppose the most reactionary and most diehard enemies at a particular time.

This policy is but part of the revolutionary movement's broad approach to reactionary elections. For the Party, it is a more basic task to expose to the people that elections held under a reactionary system are rotten, deceptive and inutile.

We explain to them that they cannot expect anything from such elections. We raise their consciousness through education and propaganda. We teach them that the only hope for attaining fundamental change in their condition is through advancing and winning the revolutionary struggle to destroy the present oppressive social system and form a new system governed by people's democratic power.

During this period of reactionary elections, we continue with our principal task of intensifying tactical offensives and the revolutionary struggle on various fronts even as we pay attention to certain tactical considerations. AB

Immediate and long-term prospects of the peace talks

The Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) anticipates the resumption of the previously suspended formal peace negotiations between the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) and the reactionary government in the coming month.

The talks have long remained suspended because of the many obstacles that the Arroyo regime had placed in its path, among them the regime's refusal to recognize and implement previously signed agreements; its all-out international campaign to pin the "terrorist" tag on the CPP, NPA and NDFP peace panel Senior Political Consultant Jose Maria Sison; its insistence on a "Final Peace Agreement" which it one-sidedly drafted and is, in truth, nothing but an "agreement of surrender"; and its militarist policies and all-out war, which are contrary to its pronouncements of peace.

Despite all this, the Party and revolutionary movement continue to aspire for peace and have never closed



the door to continuing the peace negotiations with the present regime or with any successor regime that wants to conduct talks with it.

But the Arroyo regime must now move quickly to reopen the peace talks before it runs out of time. The Arroyo clique realizes that the majority of the people want the peace talks to continue. Arroyo expects that the talks' resumption will help her redeem herself from her grave isolation from the people and from her dashed hopes of winning in the coming election.

The release of a joint statement signed recently by the chair-

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persons of the NDFP and GRP peace panels is quite significant, as it mentions that the talks are to continue within the framework of The Hague Joint Declaration of 1992 and subsequent agreements between the NDFP and the GRP. The panels likewise agreed on the following:

→Reaffirming The Hague Joint Declaration of 1992 and other agreements as the foundation and the framework of the negotiations;

→Addressing the issue of the inclusion of member-organizations of the NDFP and its chief consultant in the list of "terrorists" and providing protection to them in accordance with The Hague Joint Declaration and the Amado V. Hernandez doctrine on political cases;

→Forming the Joint Monitoring Committee in accordance with CARHRIHL;

→Resuming talks on socio-economic reforms;

→Discussing the GRP's suggestion on the sequence and acceleration of negotiations;

→Carrying out confidence-building measures such as freeing political prisoners and speeding up the process of indemnifying victims of martial law.

The resumption of the long-suspended peace negotiations is in itself significant since it serves as a basis for continuing the talks with the regime, whoever wins in the coming presidential election.

The tactical victories which we hope to gain in the present run of the peace negotiations is but one aspect. We must make it clear that the attainment of a genuine, long-lasting and liberating peace is based on, and at no time can be divorced from, our assiduous advance of the people's democratic revolution and our perseverance in protracted people's war, with or without peace talks. AB

NPA launches simultaneous raid on 2 PAF camps in Batangas

The NPA launched simultaneous attacks on January 10 on the Philippine Air Force (PAF) 740th Combat Support Group's camp in Barangay Ruhatan, Balayan, Batangas and its detachment in Barangay Dacanlao, beside the NAPOCOR plant. The attacks were launched by a composite force composed of Red fighters from the Melito Glor Command (NPA-Southern Tagalog) and the Edgardo Dagle Command (NPA-Batangas).

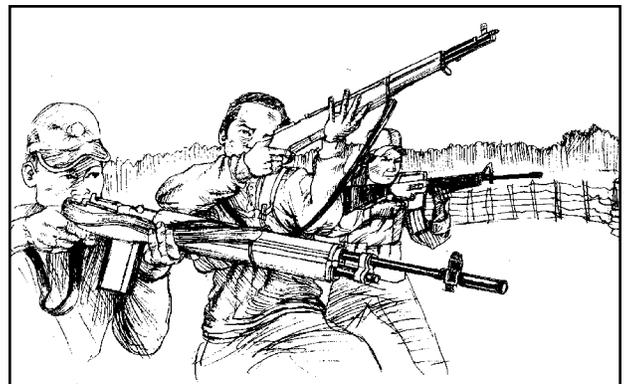
The attack was a punitive action against the PAF unit, which is principally responsible for the all-out "counter-insurgency" campaign in western Batangas. With a long list of human rights violations, it likewise guards and protects the NAPOCOR's 600 megawatt coal-fired thermal plant that is much despised and opposed by the people in the area.

Four PAF personnel were killed and six were wounded in the raid on the two camps. Another sergeant was killed when the NPA ambushed the two groups of reinforcements that came all the way from Nasugbu and Tuy. Three Red fighters sacrificed their lives.

The AFP can no longer deny the NPA's strong presence and mass base in Batangas. No less than the AFP's chief propagandist Lt. Col. Daniel Lucero has said that the NPA could not have launched these military actions if it did not have a mass base. He reasoned out that AFP forces are

far too dispersed, enabling the NPA to attack areas where the AFP forces are spread thin.

Lucero merely spewed lies to cover up for the NPA's victorious tactical operation. He made it appear that the attackers' objective was to blow up the NAPOCOR



plant. In fact, this was merely used as a ruse to deceive the AFP forces in the two camps, which were the real targets of the tactical offensive.

The NPA guerrillas showed that despite the very large concentration of AFP and PNP forces in Southern Tagalog, particularly in Mindoro, Laguna and Batangas, the people's army is able to launch successful tactical offensives in these areas and inflict damage on the AFP and PNP. AB



Deceiving the people through “peace zones”

The regime has once again been dishing out a worn-out scheme to deceive and pacify a people up in arms. The Arroyo regime, in connivance with reactionary institutions and organizations in the Cordillera revived the “peace zones” in Mt. Province in November. It pinpointed seven towns as “peace zones”—Sabangan, Bauko, Tadian, Bontoc, Sadanga, Sagada and Besao.

“Peace zones” are supposedly areas where neither the New People’s Army nor the Armed Forces of the Philippines is allowed to enter. The supposed rationale is to maintain peace and continue with the livelihood projects and programs that have been destroyed or could not be continued because of the war.

In actuality, “peace zones” are set up to drive out Red fighters, especially from areas where the ruling classes have large projects like mining, dams, logging and megaturism. Their purpose is to put a stop to or weaken revolutionary work, consciousness-raising and people’s organizing and convert the place into a “free zone” for reactionaries. The AFP is

allowed to freely enter and launch military operations, set up detachments and recruit CAFGU elements. The official line is that AFP soldiers are there only for “rest and recreation.” Government agencies and counterrevolutionary and reformist organizations and institutions are likewise allowed to enter and deceive the people. At no time does the Philippine National Police leave the “peace zones.”

The “peace zone” first appeared in the Cordillera during the US-Aquino regime. The Coalition for Peace, a reformist organization of social-democrats, as well as some politicians and conservative church people made a show of interceding in the fighting between the NPA and the AFP. It was first experimented on in Sagada, Mountain Province and in Tabuk, Kalinga.

But not long afterward, the “peace zone” scheme ended up a complete failure. It did not resolve even by an iota, the roots of poverty and exploitation which drive the people to embrace the revolution and defend their lives, land and livelihood. The NPA refused to recognize it. Comrades

refused to be deterred and the people in the area continued to support them. Because of that experience, the “peace zone” scheme failed to make headway in other parts of the country.

The “peace zone” scheme is sheer deception perpetrated to make the people passive, pacify them, silence them and prevent them from waging resistance. It peddles the nonsensical idea that violent class struggle may be resolved by banning the NPA, and that the issues under contention in the ongoing civil war may be solved through simple dialogue. The peddlers of this line pretend to be neutral and turn a blind eye to the war that will liberate the exploited and oppressed.

This is also a tactic of the reactionary government to push for local negotiations between the AFP and the NPA. It only shows the reactionary government’s lack of sincerity and decisiveness in its negotiations with the NDFP. It attempts to divide the revolutionary forces because it reckons that it can crush the NPA more easily by conducting several separate peace negotiations. AB

NPA disarms politician



THE NPA CONFISCATED three firearms from two bodyguards of Rep. Jose Solis (2nd District of Sorsogon) on January 8 in Barangay Union, Gubat, Sorsogon. Members of the Romulo Jallores Command (RJC) confiscated an Ingram machine pistol, two 9 mm pistols and two cellphones.

In a statement, RJC spokesperson Ka Jose

Buenaobra said Solis and his bodyguards “entered the guerrilla zone in order to cunningly have the jump on the campaign.” Because Solis did not have permission, the NPA calmly confronted him. But Solis’ group attempted to fight back. One of Solis’ bodyguards was hit in the hand when he tried to reach for his gun. Solis is a former Philippine Army colonel. AB

Parola Development Plan:

Sham housing program

Divisive and devious is what the urban poor think of the Arroyo regime's housing scheme. In its attempt to drive them out of every inch of Metro Manila, the regime formed a "socialized housing" and relocation program to systematically eliminate the urban poor from the national capital region and pave the way for the implementation of the mothballed "development projects" that cover their communities. The projects include, among others, port modernization, the Pasig River Rehabilitation Project, road widening and the North Bay Boulevard Business Park, all of them fully funded by imperialist institutions and reserved for the use of foreign monopoly corporations.

Parola

After "Edsa 3" took place in May 2001, the Arroyo regime brandished the "socialized housing" scheme in the strongholds of the ousted Estrada regime's supporters. Its aim was to thoroughly reduce Estrada's support base. One of the targets was the urban poor community in Parola Estate. On September 3, 2003, Gloria Arroyo signed the Parola Development Plan (PDP) into law.

The Parola Estate in Barangay 20, Tondo, Manila is a 15-hectare parcel of land along the mouth of the Pasig River. It will be affected by the Pasig River Rehabilitation Program on one side, and the port modernization project on the other. The railroad going to the Manila International Cargo Terminal cuts across the community. Radial 10, a road widening project, will also cut

across Parola.

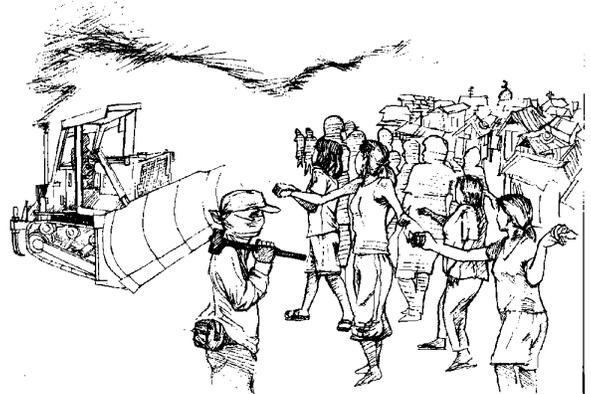
More than 18,500 families are cramped in subhuman conditions in Parola. Each family occupies an average eight square meter lot. The community does not have a decent water and electricity system. Other basic services are wanting. Criminality and other antisocial activities run rampant especially since syndicates proliferate in the area.

A big majority of the residents are semi-proletarians who eke out a living as cargo loaders in the nearby port or as peddlers in Divisoria or engage in odd jobs just to tide them over from hunger. Many of them are driven to commit antisocial acts just to survive.

Devious program

Because of the large number of residents, the 9.6 hectares allotted from the 15 hectares covered by the community is woefully inadequate to accommodate everyone. The regime has come up with a scheme to divide the community into the few "legitimate" and the far more numerous "illegitimate" residents. On September 5, 2003, the regime rewarded Certificates for Eligibility for Lot Allocation (CELA) to a mere 100 families that were dubbed "legitimate," while the rest were served eviction notices and threatened with demolition. The regime bribed a number of local leaders, further dividing the community. Thus, the regime was able to win over certain families to support the PDP.

Nevertheless, the CELA is no



guarantee that the holder will eventually be given a land title.

Moreover, the residents will have to buy the lots that their shanties have long occupied and pay a huge amount for such a small parcel of land. A ten square meter lot, the smallest offered, is worth P8,000. To make the payments look small, the regime decreed that residents may pay in installment at the rate of P67.14 a month for ten years. The price of the largest lot (32 square meters) is P25,000. Its takers will have to shell out P213.63 monthly, also for ten years. This excludes expenses for rebuilding the house. Even if the urban poor do get the lots and are able to rebuild their houses, it will not take long before they face foreclosure or are forced to resell them because of their precarious livelihood and insufficient income.

Other residents will be dumped in relocation sites in Cavite and Bulacan far from their sources of income and where conditions are just as bad if not worse. Most of these locations have already been given out to other urban poor.

The need for unity

In the Parola Development Plan, small-scale demolitions will be implemented in the name of reblocking, ostensibly for creating new streets and widening existing ones, setting up a water system and

Buhay-Barya: A review



Tudla productions released a video documentary entitled *Buhay-Barya* (A Pittance of a Life) that portrayed the different faces of poverty in Metro Manila. The video illustrated real people and their problems in the face of real events. It was first shown to the public on December 10, 2003.

The 57-minute video is divided into different story segments. It features the story of a contractual worker in a factory, a *batilyo* (a worker who hauls and loads huge tubs full of fish) working in Navotas, a garbage collector who endures his measly wages, and a nationalist businessman whose business collapses and who tries once more to get back on his feet despite the lack of government support.

The first story follows the life of the couple Rosalie and Bong. Rosalie is a contractual worker in a garments factory. She has transferred from factory to factory several times, but no matter what she does and no matter how long she has worked in a factory, she never becomes a regular worker. In many cases, the factories simply change their names to avoid the regularization of workers like Rosalie.

Bong, meanwhile, has been laid off from his job in a factory because he dared to form and lead a union.

Both of them worry about the future of their only child Bianca who was then close to celebrating her second birthday. No matter how hard they toil all day, they still face an uncertain future. They are not even sure if they could afford a simple birthday celebration for their child.

To tide them over, Rosalie pawns her ATM card to her supervisor in order to borrow a relatively big amount. In exchange, her supervisor deducts 10% each time from her wages until she pays off her debt, with interest.

The second story follows a day in the life of the couple Nonoy and Jeng. The couple has six children, two of them already in college. Nonoy used to be a regular worker but was fired after he joined a union. He now works as a *batilyo*. *Batilyos* are employed according to the antiquated and oppressive *kabo* system. Nonoy

usually receives only P150 for a night of backbreaking labor.

Meanwhile, Jeng works all day cleaning fish at the port. She only earns from P100-200 on average. The couple's combined earnings is woefully short of what it takes to support their children. Thus, they resort to skimping on their food and other expenses. To augment their earnings, Jeng borrows money from her relatives to set up a small store while Nonoy has a sideline job with the barangay.

The third story is about Mang Crispin, a garbage collector who loses his job because the company that he worked for has had a slump. He merely hitches a ride from his fellow garbage collectors and works as an extra hand just to tide over his family from hunger. In order to eke out some money on days when no trips are made to collect garbage, he gathers and sells usable garbage. On other days, he works as a collector for "ending," a numbers game.

In spite of the poverty and oppression that the couples in the three episodes suffer, they continue to aspire for a bright future for their children and for themselves. They are part of a growing workers' movement struggling for a just wage increase, enough jobs and other workers' rights.

The last story shows the collapse of Sarao Motors, a local company owned by a national bourgeois. The owner relates that the company was unable continue its operations because of the high cost of importing spare parts and the proliferation of second-hand passenger vehicles dumped from Korea and Japan.

The stories portrayed in *Buhay-Barya* bear witness to the intense bondage and oppression suffered by those in the lowest to the middle strata of society at the hands of the ruling classes and the existing government. From what they have said and from their very lives and experiences, what is starkly evident is the hopelessness faced by the toiling masses and the entire people under the existing reactionary and rotten system. AB

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estuaries and barangay facilities. With these incremental demolitions, the ranks of the urban poor are divided, confrontations are reduced to a minimum, and the regime is able to avoid inciting the anger of the majority and prevent them from mobilizing. The regime hopes that

it would not take long before it is able to evict the majority of the urban poor from their shanties without much resistance.

In the face of these tactics, it becomes even more urgent for the whole community to close ranks. They will need to fight off the threats to their livelihood and

homes—whether demolition is imminent or still a relatively far-off threat. The urban poor who are affected now or will be in the future, have to unite firmly, repudiate those who conspire against their fellow urban poor, and further strengthen their organization and struggle. AB

Cuba's gains in providing health care

Health for all

Millions of people in Cuba commemorated the 45th anniversary of the revolution on January 1. On this day, they celebrated Cuba's continued success in resisting US imperialism and building a society that nurtures the welfare of the people under a socialist system. One of the areas where it has already scored victories is its health care system.

Cuba has reaped admirable victories in biotechnology. The Cubans' experience demonstrate the capacity of a small and self-reliant country to achieve progress in science and technology despite the imposition of an economic embargo by US imperialism. Cubans and other people of the world greatly benefit from Cuba's establishment of its own drug industry.

The Cuban government's determination and efforts to develop biotechnology are geared towards providing the people not only with effective but with advanced health care services. Its health care system for the people is exemplary.

In order for everyone to have access to health services, there is a doctor assigned to every community in Cuba. Hospital services are free. The government attaches great importance to educating the people on the prevention of diseases and epidemics.

Part of the programs for disease prevention is providing free vaccination for the people. The vaccination of almost 100% of Cubans has resulted in the eradication of diseases like polio, measles, malaria, tetanus and diphtheria. It is said that Cuba has the largest percentage of vaccinated people in the whole world.

Cuba also has the lowest percentage of the population with AIDS in the Americas, and one of the lowest in the world. The National Commission on AIDS was established in Cuba in 1983 even though there was not a single Cuban with AIDS then. The Cuba-wide program was launched in 1985 to identify those who were HIV-positive. There are free sanatoria in various parts of the country that take in those who have been tested positive for HIV and AIDS and provide them with proper nutrition, housing and education about the illness and its medication. At present, there has been a significant reduction in the number of people in Cuba who die of AIDS because of the anti-HIV medication manufactured in the country.

Comprehensive prenatal care has resulted in one of the lowest infant mortality rates (6.5 in every 1,000 for

the year 2002). The average Cuban life span of 76 years is the highest in Latin America.

There is one doctor for every 200 Cubans. There are 21 medical schools in the country that graduate 4,000 doctors every year. Anyone may aspire to become a doctor because the entire educational system is free and subsidized by the Cuban government.

Even the imperialist countries and their paid propagandists cannot deny Cuba's effectiveness in advancing health programs for the people. In fact, the World Health Organization (WHO) has awarded Pres. Fidel Castro twice with the Health for All medal (1988 and 1998). Only Cuba has satisfied the standard set by the WHO for health care systems that underdeveloped countries should develop by the year 2000. Cuba reached the standard as early as 1983.

Cuba did not have its own pharmaceutical industry before the victory of the revolution in 1959. At present, however, Cuba can manufacture almost all kinds of medicines existing worldwide. Cubans manufacture 85% of the over 1,000 types of medicines they consume.

In addition, Cuba is one of the leading countries in the research and manufacture of new medicines and vaccines. Its most recent successes include the following:

- the creation of the only vaccine against meningitis-B
- the creation of a vaccine against hepatitis-B
- research and finalization of a vaccine against cholera
- the creation of a vaccine against hemophilic influenza type B
- research and experimentation of a potential vaccine against AIDS that has successfully passed the animal-testing stage and is now undergoing the first stage of human clinical trials.
- the creation of a drug that dissolves coagulated blood in heart attack victims
- the creation of a cream made from human placenta to treat certain skin diseases
- the creation of an ointment that hastens the healing of skin burns.

Cubans also have effective methods for diagnosing and treating cancer. They likewise have advanced experience and knowledge in other types of operations, such as the treatment of eye diseases and debilitating illnesses like multiple sclerosis and Parkinson's disease.

Cubans have been able to achieve these victories in biotechnology and health services because of the Cuban government's independent and propeople orientation. Because the principal consideration in launching these programs is the people's welfare, Cuba is sure to reap the benefits of science and technology and is able to count on the cooperation of the entire people. AB

"GMA, traitor!"

OVER 2,500 activists lashed out against Gloria Arroyo's betrayal of the aspirations of EDSA II on January 20. Some 1,500 persons gathered in Iloilo City and over 1,000 marched along EDSA that day to commemorate the third anniversary of the EDSA uprising that ousted the Estrada regime and installed Arroyo in power. The demonstrators said that Arroyo betrayed the promises she made during EDSA II because of the serious corruption, puppetry and repression of her regime.

In Metro Manila, demonstrators led by BAYAN attempted to rally in front of the EDSA shrine but were blocked by police while they were still one kilometer away from it. Members of KMU, KMP, Anakpawis, Gabriela Women's Party, Anak ng Bayan, Migrante, Kairos and other organizations were among those who joined the protest action.

Palparan deployed to Iraq

GLORIA ARROYO APPROVED on January 15 the deployment of Brig. Gen. Jovito Palparan as head of the 96-man group of AFP soldiers that would supposedly help in Iraq's rehabilitation. As head of the Philippine contingent in Iraq, Palparan will be enjoying a higher allowance (aside from his salary as a general) and additional benefits.

Palparan was deployed to Iraq so he could evade cases of grave human rights violations in Mindoro. Palparan was formerly the commander of the butcher 204th Brigade which was responsible for the murder of many activists and civilians suspected of supporting the revolutionary movement. The most prominent case involved the summary execution of KARAPATAN-ST secretary-general Eden Marcellana and KASAMA-TK chair Eddie Gumanoy in Oriental Mindoro in April 2003.

Despite his bloody record, Arroyo rewarded Palparan by promoting him to general in 2002. She made a show of suspending the promotion after it met with much criticism, and quietly assigned Palparan as deputy commander of the Philippine Army 2nd ID. Palparan had not occupied the position for a year when he was once again granted a position of privilege.

MSP holds lightning rally on 25th anniversary

SOME 50 ACTIVISTS from the health sector staged a lightning rally in a number of crowded streets in Metro Manila on December 5, the eve of the 25th founding anniversary of the Makabayang Samahang Pangkalusugan (MSP – Patriotic Health Association).

The MSP called for the overthrow of the Arroyo regime, which it said was no different from previous puppet regimes.

The MSP, a national-democratic underground mass organization, is one of the 17 allied organizations under the NDFP. At present, it has members among doctors, nurses, hospital workers and students, among others who belong to the health sector in various regions of the country.

Number of US forces killed in action in Iraq exceeds 500 mark

THE NUMBER OF AMERICAN soldiers killed in continued fighting in Iraq has exceeded the 500 mark. The latest additions were three soldiers killed when a bomb was detonated on January 17 under their Bradley cargo armored vehicle in the town of Mashahidah, 30 kilometers north of Baghdad. Two members of the Iraqi Civil Defense were also killed, while two more troops of the US Army 4th Infantry Division were wounded. The Humvee vehicles that were following it were also burned down.

Before this, nine American soldiers were killed when Iraqi guerrillas used a surface-to-air missile to bring down a US Black Hawk helicopter in the southeastern part of Fallujah. On January 7, guerrillas rained mortars on the Seitz Logistical Base west of Baghdad. One soldier was killed and 34 wounded among the troops of the US Army 541st Maintenance Battalion, 3rd Corps Support Command.

US bombs Afghan civilians

FOUR CHILDREN were among the eleven civilians killed when American soldiers bombed their community on the night of January 18. A US helicopter bombed a house in Saghatho village, Deh Rawood town, Char Chino District in Uruzgan province. In December, at least 30 civilians, 15 of them children, were killed in US military operations.