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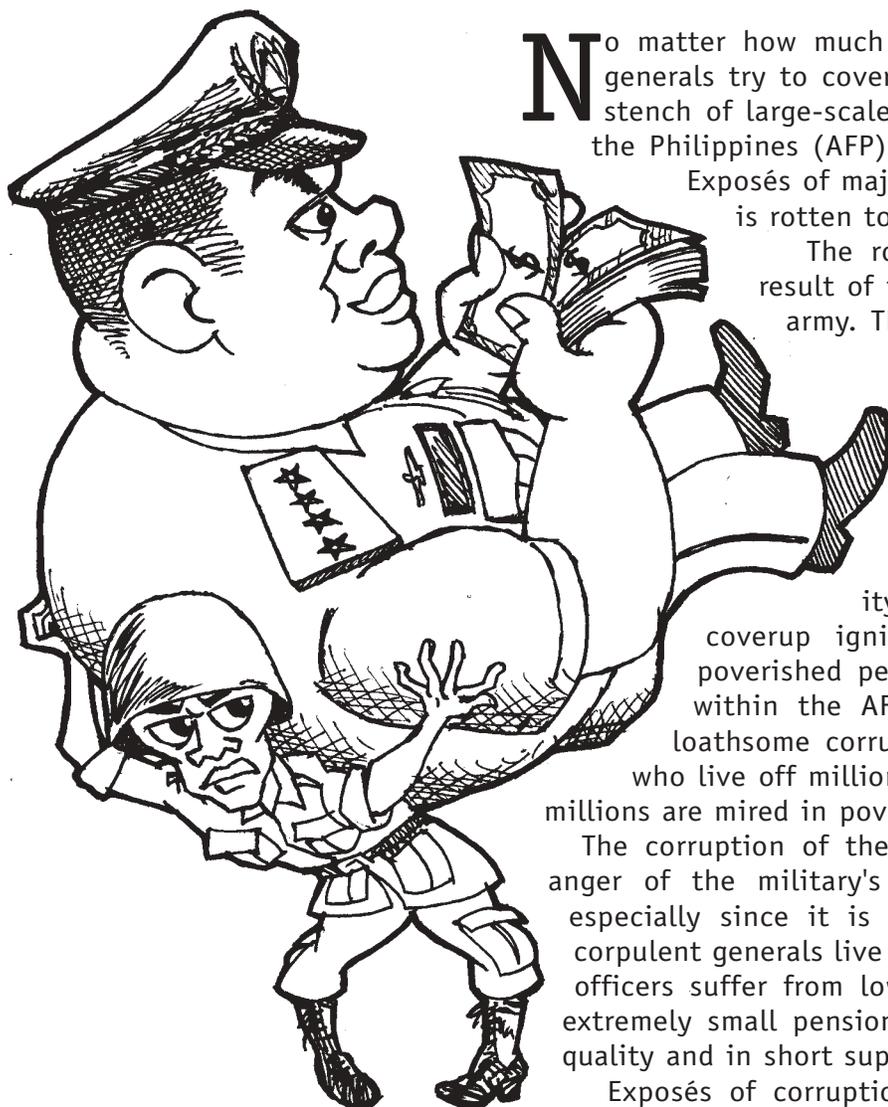
Bayan

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

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Editorial

Exposés of corruption are further weakening the AFP



No matter how much the US-Arroyo regime and its leading generals try to cover it up, they cannot stop the spreading stench of large-scale corruption within the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), especially among its highest officials. Exposés of major corruption cases signify that the AFP is rotten to the core.

The rottenness inside the AFP is the direct result of its character as a mercenary and fascist army. The rottenness of the ruling system that it defends is the same rottenness that exists within the AFP's ranks. The AFP, especially its highest echelons, is a kingdom of millionaire generals, all of them bureaucrat capitalists who use their power to enrich themselves.

Large-scale corruption and criminality among AFP generals and attempts at a coverup ignite the widespread anger of an impoverished people. They are angered over corruption within the AFP the same way they raged over the loathsome corruption of officials of the Arroyo regime who live off millions of pesos of ill-gotten wealth even as millions are mired in poverty.

The corruption of the AFP's leading generals also spurs the anger of the military's rank-and-file and its junior officers, especially since it is they who are its main victims. While corpulent generals live it up, the AFP's rank-and-file and junior officers suffer from low salaries that are constantly delayed, extremely small pensions and equipment that is both poor in quality and in short supply, among other hardships.

Exposés of corruption among leading generals are rocking

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both the AFP and the US-Arroyo regime. These exposés further deepen rifts and divisions inside the AFP, spur ordinary soldiers and junior officers to launch protest actions and weaken their resolve to defend the ruling system.

Neither the AFP nor the reactionary system has the capacity to cleanse itself. It is inherent in the present system for corruption to permeate the military and civil bureaucracy.

The AFP is the reactionaries' most consolidated organization and is the current system's leading supporter and defender. Its weakening means the weakening of the reactionary ruling system's ability to defend itself, especially against the threat of the oppressed Filipino people's growing armed and unarmed resistance. Thus the ruling classes' extreme anxiety over the scandals now rocking it.

But the AFP's weakening is a good thing in the eyes of the people. It means the weakening of its capacity to unleash and inflict violence on the people. The AFP's weakening hastens the

victory of the revolutionary armed movement.

It is the revolutionary forces' responsibility to take advantage of the present turmoil within the AFP and further deepen the rifts within the ranks of both the military and the police.

In the face of all this, our principal task is to further intensify the armed revolution. In particular, we must launch ever bigger and more frequent tactical offensives. We must do our utmost to look for weak sections of the AFP and PNP and relentlessly deal heavy blows on them. Every victorious tactical offensive further weakens the AFP and PNP's determination and undermines their unity.

At the same time, we must go all out in linking with the rank-and-file and junior officers of the AFP and PNP

...it is certain that the military and police will further rot away, along with the disintegration of the ruling system.



who have been airing grievances against the rottenness of the military and police organization. We may assist them in forming democratic associations within the military and police and encourage them to carry out clandestine or open collective actions in defense of their interests.

In the past, such linkages with the military and police rank-and-file as well as their junior officers have served as a basis for broader linkages and cooperation.

Forces within the military, police and CAFGU, especially the rank-and-file who hail from the oppressed classes, and with whom we have established links, may be encouraged to join the



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revolutionary movement. They may form underground branches of the Lt. Crispin Tagamolila Movement within their units, conduct study sessions, recruit other personnel and cooperate with the NPA.

Cooperating with the NPA includes having soldiers provide important tactical information regarding their operations. We have had many experiences where entire CAFGU and even PNP units clandestinely recognized the leadership of revolutionary organizations.

We must also encourage campaigns to defect from the rotten AFP, PNP and CAFGU. We know that many among the rank-and-file stay on because they have no other means of livelihood. We must show them the havoc and cruelty wrought on the people by their military operations and encourage them to seek alternative means of livelihood.

In the future, the military and police will further rot away, along with the disintegration of the ruling system. On the other hand, people's war will grow even stronger as millions of people join the New People's Army and other revolutionary organizations. **AB**

Latest anomalies and corruption cases in the AFP



Forty bank accounts containing millions of pesos and 53 luxury vehicles. Remitting \$886,957 or almost ₱50 million (at the exchange rate of \$1 = ₱56) to the US to pay for a New York condominium that his son had bought. Another incidence of remitting \$100,000 or ₱5.6 million to the US to support the luxuries and ostentatious lifestyle of his wife and sons who live there. Expensive houses in Metro Manila and Baguio, a luxury

resort, recreation centers and a plantation in Iloilo.

These are just some of the scandalous details regarding the ill-gotten wealth of Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia, AFP comptroller from 2001 to 2003. His fellow generals have long been aware of these anomalies. The public, however, had only come to know about them recently when the US announced the apprehension of one of Garcia's sons for failing to

declare the amount of \$100,000 he was hand-carrying into the country last year. Even then, Garcia's wife already shamelessly admitted that the amount had come from the "gratitude money" they had received from private contractors that the AFP dealt with.

No one believes that it is only Garcia who lives off the AFP's funds. He administered AFP funds and resources together with the incumbent AFP chief of staff and had served as comptroller under five generals.

The AFP is trying very hard to cover up the fact that Garcia had reportedly made a list of generals and legislators who benefited from AFP funds under his term. AFP officials themselves admit to routinely releasing funds for politicians, such as what Garcia did in the last election, when he released funds for a certain presidential candidate.

AFP officials, and even the regime, are frantically trying to prevent further exposés of the anomalies and cases of corruption and plunder in the armed forces in the face of the scandal involving Garcia.

One of those whose wealth had questionably increased is Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) Secretary Gen. Angelo Reyes, who then served as secretary of the Department of Defense. It may be recalled that

plunder case proceedings against him ground to a halt last year when he resigned his position. His statement of assets and liabilities alone indicate that his assets had grown by ₱4.1 million from 2002 to 2003. In the same period, he was able to have a house built worth ₱10 million and purchase two restaurants in Bulacan and Cebu City.

Communication (DOTC). Reyes, Ermita and Mendoza are now under investigation by American authorities regarding the huge dollar accounts they have been maintaining in the US.

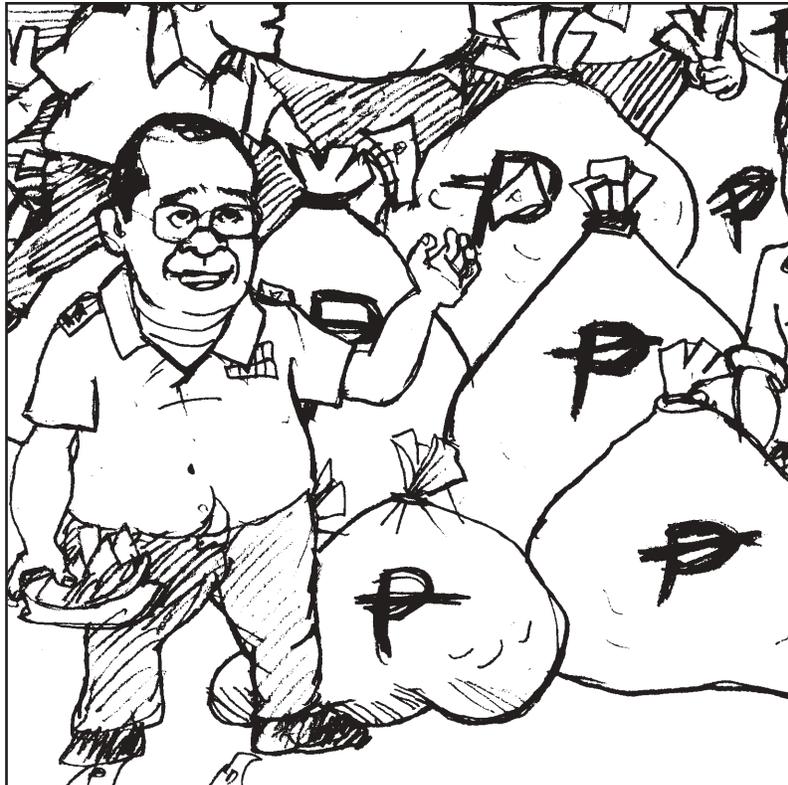
Other anomalies and cases of corruption and plunder:

1) One general was able to amass more than ₱400 million only within his last four years in the AFP, according to Ret. Com. Rex Robles, a member of the Feliciano Commission. The Feliciano Commission was tasked with investigating the complaints of junior officers who participated in a protest action last year against widespread corruption in the military.

2) Generals in Mindanao pocket up to ₱534 million worth of funds intended for the rice subsidies of AFP troops in Mindanao. Thus, the troops have not received their rice rations since January. The same generals also receive kickbacks from the funds that the US provides for the Balikatan military

exercises. This is according to two congressmen who have also now begun investigating other anomalies and cases of corruption in the AFP in Mindanao.

3) Two generals have been charged with falsifying their birth certificates to enable them to extend their stay in the AFP by another three years and amass more ill-gotten wealth. **AB**



AFP officials, and even the regime are frantically trying to prevent further exposés of the anomalies and cases of corruption and plunder in the armed forces in the face of the Garcia scandal...

In addition to Reyes, two other generals in Arroyo's cabinet have been identified as "beneficiaries" of AFP funds. Also in the list of generals who have been spiriting way dollars abroad and living luxurious lifestyles are Arroyo's Executive Secretary Gen. Eduardo Ermita and Gen. Leandro Mendoza, secretary of the Department of Transportation and

Tabara's grave crimes

A week after hardened criminal and counterrevolutionary Arturo Tabara was killed, his crimes against the people continue to be exposed. According to the latest report, Tabara was guilty of 19 cases of murder and at least 15 cases of holdups, theft, extortion and human rights violations. Many of the cases were committed in Negros and Panay where the RPA-ABB that he led was able to wreak havoc.

What other crimes was Tabara guilty of and why was there much rejoicing among the people and the revolutionary movement in Negros and Panay when they learned that his ability to perpetrate crimes and wreak havoc had ended?

The following is a lineup of some of Tabara's most serious crimes:

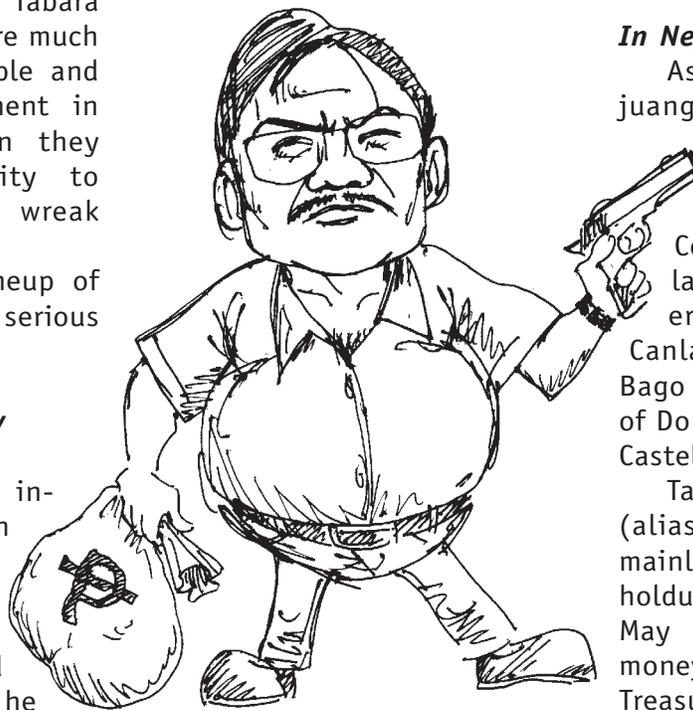
Against the revolutionary movement

In mid-1993, Tabara incited NPA members in Panay that he had deceived to mutiny and ordered them to cart away 170 high-powered firearms. In May 1994, he ordered Daniel Batoy (alias Mokong) and Demetrio Capiastique (alias Hugo) to disarm an NPA team in Barangay Bagacay, Tigbauan, Iloilo. The counterrevolutionary elements took with them two M16s, a Garand and a VHF handset.

In May 2001, Tabara and Nilo de la Cruz issued orders to the RPA-ABB to launch armed attacks against the NPA. The result was a raid by combined forces of the Philippine Army 12th IB and the RPA-ABB on an NPA team in

Barangay Culasi, Antique on May 21. During this encirclement operation, Rowena Torato and Manny (Ka Cezar) Oderio were killed and two other guerrillas were wounded seriously. The AFP also captured another Red fighter.

Tabara was also involved in the capture of Party cadre Ruben Saluta on November 22 and his torture and illegal detention in the hands of AFP operatives up to December 22, 1999.



Grave crimes in Panay since 1994

From 1994 to 1999, Tabara was involved in the murder of at least eight peasants from three different towns. Many of the victims were opposed to, or resisted, the RPA-ABB's criminal activities.

He was also involved in the murder of Juanito Lutero of Barangay Tambal, Janiuy, Iloilo in 1999. A person with whom Lutero had a land dispute paid a

large sum to the RPA-ABB to have Lutero killed.

Other cases involved the murder of three peasant youth in Barangay Aquino in 2000; two sons of Lucero Batoy in Barangay Aparicio in March 2001; and businessman Boy Tesorero of Makato, Aklan in 2002.

Tabara and the RPA-ABB were likewise involved in the kidnapping of Leo Victor (Leovic) Gutierrez, a mountaineer from Manila, in February 2003.

In Negros and other areas

As Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr.'s security officer, Arturo Tabara was responsible for offering the RPA-ABB's services as Cojuangco's private goons in large-scale landgrabbing operations in the cities of Canlaon, Kabankalan, Sipalay, Bago and Carlota, and the towns of Don Salvador Benedicto and La Castellana, all in Negros island.

Tabara and Stephen Paduano (alias Carapali Lualhati) were mainly responsible for a bank holdup by the RPA-ABB holdup in May 2002. The RPA-ABB stole money owned by the Municipal Treasurer's Office of Sta. Catalina town in Negros Oriental which was deposited in a bank in nearby Bayawan town. Lito Dagat, Virgie Edreal, Dondon Dinsay and another municipal employee were killed in this incident.

Tabara made the RPA-ABB serve as goons of the political dynasty led by Nene de la Cruz and his wife Cynthia who is currently mayor of Don Salvador Benedicto. He was also involved in illegal logging operations in that town.

Tabara and the RPA-ABB served as paid goons of Ignacio Arroyo, brother-in-law of Pres. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, and other reactionary politicians in Negros in the last election.

Tabara also extorted sums ranging from P100,000 to millions of pesos from businessmen and landlords, claiming it was for revolutionary taxation. He used the name and logo of the CPP-NPA-NDF and the signature of NDF-Negros spokesperson Ka Frank Fernandez in the extortion letters sent out.

In 2002, the RPA-ABB actively linked up with another band of murderers that called itself the Red Vigilante Group (RVG) led by Ricardo Peralta. Based in Bongabon, Nueva Ecija, the RVG is controlled by the province's governor Tomas Joson III and the military, and operates mostly in Central Luzon. Its elements serve as guns-for-hire, and are involved in holdup, drug peddling and kidnapping operations.

The RPA-ABB-RVG is also in the service of close allies of Danding Cojuangco Jr. such as the Dys of Isabela. It carries out landgrabbing operations and terrorizes the people and the Dys' political opponents. It was this group that was responsible for the murder of Jones, Isabela Bayan Muna party coordinator Jake Soriano and businessman Romy Blancaflor, also from the town of Jones. It was also the RPA-ABB-RVG that razed down two municipal halls in Isabela during the May 2004 election.

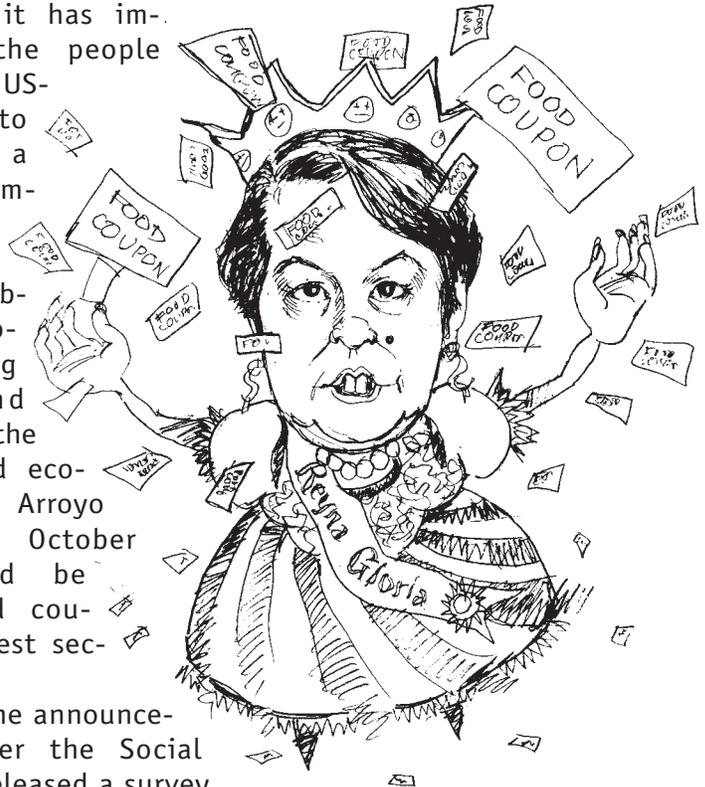
Tabara also made the RPA-ABB serve as paid goons of druglords in Boracay. **AB**

The regime's food coupons are crumbs for a starving people

The burdens it has imposed on the people causes the US-Arroyo regime to fear the ire of a starving and impoverished populace. Hence, after years of obscuring the people's real living conditions and boasting about the regime's supposed economic successes, Arroyo announced this October that she would be distributing food coupons to the poorest sections of society.

Arroyo made the announcement a day after the Social Weather Station released a survey indicating that 15.1% of the people were starving. According to the survey, one in seven families across the country had nothing to eat at least once in the past three months.

The program, meant to be a public relations gimmick, is set to be implemented in November, with the Department of Social Welfare and Development and the Department of Education (DepEd) as the lead agencies. The plan is to distribute food coupons in schools, with the DepEd identifying the most indigent students who would serve as the program beneficiaries. The food coupons may be exchanged for rice and other foodstuff from the National Food Authority and other select stores. The system thus shuts off the vast majority



of families that are unable to send their children even to public schools because of extreme poverty.

It is an outrageously insulting project. In the three years that Gloria Arroyo has held office, various burdens have been mercilessly imposed on the people. Her regime continues to peg the meager wages of workers and the salaries of ordinary employees but has allowed the prices of petroleum products, electricity, food and other commodities and expenses to shoot up. It continues to carry out the policy of contractualization and mass layoffs of workers. It has been pushing

Continued in "Food coupons..." page 7



Tactical offensives launched in Southern Tagalog

The New People's Army (NPA) launched tactical offensives in Laguna, Quezon and Palawan in September and October, killing eight enemy soldiers.

In Laguna, two soldiers of the 1st IB were killed and at least two others were wounded in an ambush by a platoon of Red fighters under the NPA's Nilo Hatol Command in Barangay Kalaminaue, Cavinti, Laguna in the afternoon of October 13.

The soldiers were part of a bigger number of troops conducting operations along the Laguna-Quezon border. Unknown to them, the masses had long sent word to the Red fighters about their presence. Thus, the NPA was ready for any possible encounter. Part of its preparations involved planting bombs along the path the military would be taking.

When the soldiers arrived, not only were they hit by the detonating bombs. They were also greeted by a hail of bullets from the NPA's high-powered firearms. After the fighting, all of the Red fighters were able to retreat safely, with all of their

belongings.

To cover up its embarrassment, the 1st IB claimed that it had killed two Red fighters in pursuit operations in the early morning of October 15. The Nilo Hatol Command, however, denied



sustaining any casualties and moreover said that it did not figure in any firefight that day. In an interview, CPP spokesperson Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal said that the bodies that the 1st IB had brought to the Cavinti municipal hall were those of

Alberto Belena and Clemente Calatrava, both of them treasure hunters from Sariaya, Quezon whom the AFP had chanced upon while on the way to Barangay Caldong in the nearby town of Sampaloc, Quezon.

In Quezon, the Apolonio Mendoza Command reported two successful sniping operations in Mauban in September. On September 30, in Barangay Ilayang Bagumbungan, two soldiers standing close to each other were both killed when a single bullet fired from an NPA sniper's rifle hit one trooper and exited, also hitting the other soldier. Meanwhile, on September 19, a military officer was killed when he was sniped in Barangay Rosario. The officer was unable defend himself and merely shot back aimlessly, not knowing where the bullet that hit him came from.

In Palawan, three elements of the Philippine Marines were killed in an ambush by the NPA in Barangay Bayumbongan, Taytay on September 28. The soldiers who were part of Task Force Malampaya were on their way back to their headquarters when they were ambushed. **AB**

"Food coupons..." from page 6

for the imposition of additional tax burdens on the people. It continues to champion the policies of liberalization, privatization and deregulation at the cost of the Filipino masses' added suffering.

Arroyo claims that she could not bear to see the people go hungry—thus the distribution of

food coupons. In reality, however, it is the regime that has exacerbated poverty and hunger among the people. The project's only purpose is to shore up Arroyo's sagging popularity. It is also doubtful whether the bankrupt Arroyo government actually has the wherewithal to come up with the billions of pesos needed to carry out the project.

It is but right for the people to continue their struggle for more just living conditions, to intensify the struggle for higher wages and salaries and the struggle against more taxes and rising prices and expenditures. Above all, it is but right for them to join the revolutionary struggle that will put an end to the present system that is starving the Filipino people. **AB**

CPP assails Palparan promotion

THE Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) assailed the promotion to major general of Brig. Gen. Jovito Palparan, dubbed the "butcher of Mindoro."

In a statement, CPP spokesperson Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal said that Palparan's promotion typifies the Arroyo regime's terrorist war: "It victimizes the people and rewards its fascist dogs." Palparan is among 16 military officers promoted effective October 20.

Aside from Palparan's bloody record in Mindoro, he also has cases of summary killings and other human rights violations in the Cordillera.

Ka Roger said that the revolutionary movement will ensure that the thousands of victims of Palparan's brutality will realize their long sought-after justice.

NPA in Southern Mindanao refutes military's lies

THE Merardo Arce Command (MAC) of the New People's Army (NPA) in Southern Mindanao refuted claims by the 404th Infantry Brigade that the NPA in Compostela Valley would be crushed in six months because the guerrilla army was supposedly running out of leaders and was suffering from low morale. The military had claimed that Ka Lando, a well-known and respected NPA commander had left the revolutionary movement after embezzling Party funds and was now enriching himself by engaging in illegal gold mining operations.

In a statement dated October 11, MAC spokesperson Rigoberto Sanchez said that Ka Lando as well as the unit of the Pulang Bagani Command that he leads continue to actively carry out their revolutionary tasks.

Sanchez also refuted the military's claim that nine guerrillas were killed in a defensive battle on September 22. He said only two fighters were killed in the encounter and that the military also captured and tortured Ka Jun-Jun Acog, a Red fighter, forcing him to act as their guide during that operation.

NPA slips through military, police cordon in Tarlac

RED fighters under the New People's Army Nelson Mesina Command (NMC) successfully slipped through a cordon of 250 military and police troops in an eight-hectare sugarcane plantation after clashes in Sitio Umangan, Barangay Balite, Pura, Tarlac from October 18 to 19.

According to NMC spokesperson Serafin Magdiwang, all of the Red fighters were able to return safely to their guerrilla base without sustaining a single casualty with the help of the people. This is contrary to claims by 69th IB commander Lt. Col. Ricardo Visaya that they had killed seven guerrillas in the encirclement operation conducted by troops from the 69th IB and 703rd Brigade and the 312nd and 313rd Provincial Mobile Group of the Tarlac PNP.

Police disperse workers', farmers' rally in Cavite

POLICE and firefighters violently dispersed a rally of about 1,000 peasants, workers and members of other militant organizations on October 18 in Trece Martires, Cavite. The rally held in front of the Cavite capitol was launched to assail Gov. Ireneo Maliksi for allowing massive land-use conversion and repressive management in the province's industrial enclaves.

According to the Kamagsasaka-Ka, an association of peasants in Cavite, farmers were losing their livelihood because Maliksi allowed big businessmen to convert agricultural lands into subdivisions and industrial and commercial enclaves. On the other hand, the Cavite Solidarity Workers blasted Maliksi for his failure to protect the interests of workers in industrial enclaves.

The demonstrators also demanded the pullout of Philippine Marines and Philippine Air Force troops from Maragondon town, saying they were unleashing terrorism in the area.

Meanwhile, thousands of peasants led by the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas held rallies in Metro Manila, Masbate, Lepazpi City and elsewhere in the Philippines on October 21 to assail policies of the Arroyo regime causing widespread hunger in the country.

Leyte Anakpawis leader murdered

LEYTE Anakpawis party regional coordinator Samuel Bandilla, 45, was ambushed and killed on the night of October 15 in Tacloban City. Bandilla is the sixth Anakpawis coordinator killed since November 2003.

Engr. Bernardo Devaras, 42, one of Bandilla's companions, was seriously wounded and is now confined in a hospital. Devaras was driving a motorcycle with Bandilla at the back seat when they were both shot by two unknown assailants. They were on their way home from a picket conducted by employees inside the compound of the Leyte Metropolitan Water District (LMWD) in Barangay Mabini.

The picket, which had been going on for days, was being held to protest the LMWD management's termination of 25 employees in the first week of October. The wounded Devaras was one of the terminated employees.

The Kilusang Mayo Uno-NAFLU, of which Bandilla was also the coordinator for Metro Tacloban, supported the employees' action. Bandilla and Devaras strongly assailed the LMWD management during the picket, particularly lambasting the anomalous dealings of its manager Ranulfo Feliciano, who was also known to maintain many goons.

Prior to this, continuing mass actions had also been launched against Feliciano to protest a series of water rate hikes and the LMWD's poor services.

Increase in support price for palay pressed

MEMBERS of the Alyansa ng mga Magbubukid sa Gitnang Luzon (AMGL) trooped to the regional office of the Department of Agriculture in San Fernando, Pampanga on October 15 to demand an increase in the government support price for palay (unhusked rice) from ₱8 to ₱15 per kilo.

According to the AMGL, the support price for palay has been pegged at ₱6 to ₱7.50 per kilo for about a decade now while fertilizer prices continued to rise. On the other hand, the government allows members of rice cartels to sell rice at prices of up to ₱24 per kilo.

Instead of supporting local agriculture by providing subsidies for rice farmers, the government has been promoting rice importation and the use of hybrid seeds, which, though high-yielding, are nonetheless more costly because peasants are obliged to buy a new set of seeds with each planting.

In related news, over 50 peasants picketed the office of the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) in Sto. Tomas, Pampanga on October 13 to demand compensation for their lands that have been inundated since the Cong Dadong Dam began operation in 2002. The dam, whose name derives from that of Gloria Arroyo's father Diosdado (Cong Dadong) Macapagal, flooded 93 hectares of land previously planted to tomatoes and corn by 81 tenants. The tenants said they were promised a compensation of ₱15 per square meter or ₱75,000 per hectare but were paid only ₱5 per square meter (or ₱50,000 per hectare).

NDF condemns media repression in Eastern Visayas

THE National Democratic Front in Eastern Visayas (NDF-EV) strongly condemned the military's suppression of media people who attended an NDF-EV press conference in April.

In a statement dated October 7, NDF-EV spokesperson Fr. Santiago Salas assailed the 8th ID for accusing the press people of "dancing with the enemy." Maj. Neneveigh Alcovindas, civil relations chief of the 8th ID, also banned media people from communicating with "enemies of the state."

Fr. Salas called on the mass media in the region to take a stand for press freedom and oppose the AFP's repressive moves.

39 million Americans live below poverty line

UP to 39 million Americans, including 20 million children, live below the poverty line. This is according to a study made by the Annie E. Casey, Ford and Rockefeller foundations released on October 12.

The study said that those living below the poverty threshold had incomes below the \$8.84 per hour needed for a family of four to live decently. The current minimum wage in the US is \$5.15 per hour.

Conditions are certainly much worse today since the data used in the study were based on US census results for 2002.