



ANG

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Pinapatnubayan ng Marxismo-Leninismo-Maoismo

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Editorial

Paper boat on a raging ocean of crisis

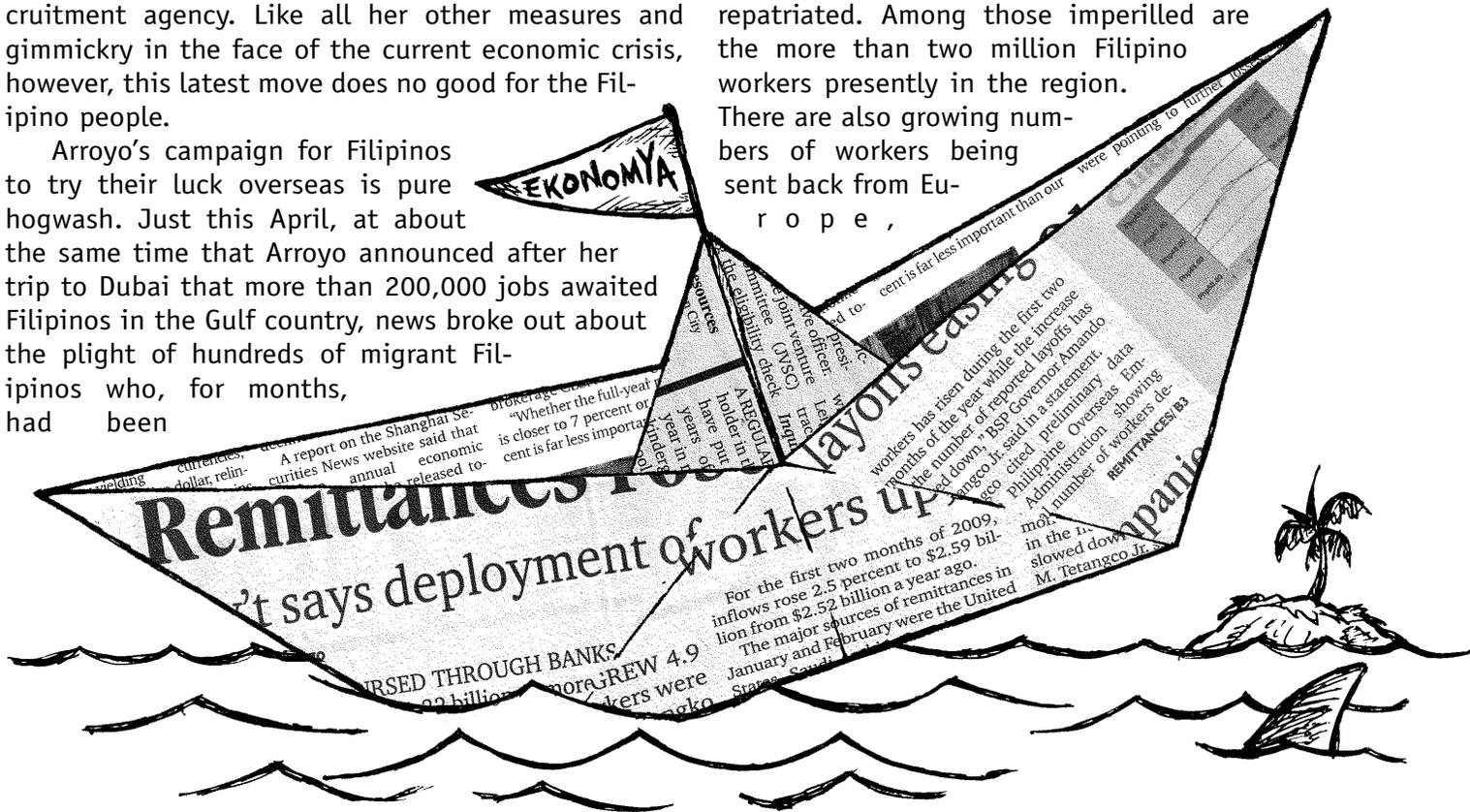
Gloria Arroyo's moves in the face of the current economic crisis are the equivalent of offering Filipino workers paper boats to ride the crisis and reach other shores where hundreds of thousands of jobs supposedly await them.

Arroyo seems to think that by pushing Filipinos to work abroad, she could cover up the worsening unemployment problem in the Philippines and project an image of being concerned for the Filipino people. Never mind that Malacañang gets to look like a giant recruitment agency. Like all her other measures and gimmickry in the face of the current economic crisis, however, this latest move does no good for the Filipino people.

Arroyo's campaign for Filipinos to try their luck overseas is pure hogwash. Just this April, at about the same time that Arroyo announced after her trip to Dubai that more than 200,000 jobs awaited Filipinos in the Gulf country, news broke out about the plight of hundreds of migrant Filipinos who, for months, had been

looking for ways to come back home after finding out that the jobs that were promised them in Dubai were non-existent (*see related article*).

Arroyo is concealing the real employment situation in Dubai and in most of the Middle East. Since the last quarter of last year, hundreds of thousands of workers have been terminated and sent home from the Middle East. It is estimated that from now until 2010, almost half of the 13 million foreign workers currently in the Middle East will be fired and repatriated. Among those imperilled are the more than two million Filipino workers presently in the region. There are also growing numbers of workers being sent back from Europe,



This issue's highlights...

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Japan, Korea, Taiwan and other countries due to the global capitalist crisis.

The worsening plight of foreign workers in the Middle East is but a reflection of a worldwide reality. In fact, a big proportion of the estimated 40 million workers who will be losing their jobs this year will be migrant workers from backward countries who will have no choice but to come home and add to the burgeoning unemployment statistics in their respective countries.

Despite all this, Arroyo persists in egging on Filipino workers to go abroad, take every last job they could get their hands on and send their dollars back home. Arroyo knows full well that it is only the migrant workers' remittances that have been keeping the country's economy afloat and that a drop in these remittances will seriously affect her chances of clinging on to power.

Globally, it is the Philippines that is most vulnerable to the mass repatriation of overseas workers. More than 25% of its labor force have decided to try their luck abroad because of the absence of decent jobs in their own country.

In 2008, there were more than 12 million documented migrant Filipinos. The actual number is much higher when the number of undocumented migrant Filipino workers is taken into account. As a mark of desperation in the face of the country's current economic crisis, up to 10,000 Filipinos have been applying for passports daily (up from 3,000 per day last year) in the hope of landing jobs overseas.

Worldwide, it is the Philippine economy that is the most dependent on foreign remittances which are now equivalent to 10% of the country's Gross Domestic Production and almost 50% of its Gross International Reserves. The massive repatriation of migrant workers is expected to result in an estimated 15% reduction in overall remittances this year, putting the economy in grave danger of going under.

Local production and trade are simultaneously going on free fall. An important indication is the big drop in the country's leading "industry," the semimanufacture of electronic spare parts that comprise almost 70% of Philippine exports. Electronics exports suffered

a 50% plunge last year due to a greatly depressed market. Foreign direct investments, the main production lifeline for export processing zones and other semimanufactures and reexports also plummeted by 50% last year. The main culprit behind these debacles is the imperialist "globalization" policy which has wrought even more havoc on the local economy in past decades.

Meanwhile, the regime has been completely inutile in creating sufficient and meaningful employment in the country. Arroyo has allotted P350 billion to fund an "economic stimulus package" but has not invested a single centavo on productive industry or for the implementation of land reform. Worse, most of these funds will end up lining the pockets of members of the Arroyo clique and fuelling their schemes to cling to power. In fact, public funds are largely earmarked for servicing the government's foreign debt, fattening up the military and police and providing spoils for plunder by the avaricious ruling clique.

And yet, workers' wages and employees' salaries remain pegged at very low levels. Funds are scarce for basic social services. But even after utterly failing to provide solutions for the people, the regime has the gall to bleed them dry by raising taxes.

In the face of the worsening crisis and the Arroyo regime's criminal disregard for the poor and oppressed, it has become ever clearer to the Filipino people that they have no other choice but to stand firm on their principles, take action and wage resistance. Resisting the regime's policies and forging ahead to end the rotten ruling system is the only way for them to lift their families and the entire country from the morass of crisis they now find themselves in. **AB**

 <p>Vol. XL No. 8 April 21, 2009</p> <p>Ang Bayan is published in Pilipino, Bisaya, Iloko, Hiligaynon, Waray and English editions.</p> <p>It is available for downloading at the Philippine Revolution Web Central located at: www.philippinerevolution.net.</p> <p>Ang Bayan welcomes contributions in the form of articles and news. Readers are likewise enjoined to send in their comments and suggestions for the betterment of our publication. You can reach us by email at: angbayan@yahoo.com</p>	<h2 style="text-align: center;">Contents</h2> <hr/> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Editorial</td> <td style="text-align: right;">1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Arroyo's lies</td> <td style="text-align: right;">3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Medical work in Southern Mindanao</td> <td style="text-align: right;">3</td> </tr> <tr> <td> Medical work during tactical offensives</td> <td style="text-align: right;">4</td> </tr> <tr> <td> Mass clinic</td> <td style="text-align: right;">5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>PNP detains released POWs</td> <td style="text-align: right;">5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Victorious NPA offensives</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td> 5 soldiers wounded in Bontoc</td> <td style="text-align: right;">5</td> </tr> <tr> <td> General Sodusta fails in Bicol</td> <td style="text-align: right;">6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>KAGUMA commemorates 38th anniversary</td> <td style="text-align: right;">7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Makabayan: Force in electoral struggle</td> <td style="text-align: right;">8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Fascist state on a rampage</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td> Military harrassment in Paquibato</td> <td style="text-align: right;">8</td> </tr> <tr> <td> Military tortures NPA leader</td> <td style="text-align: right;">9</td> </tr> <tr> <td> Lumad folk denounce conscription</td> <td style="text-align: right;">9</td> </tr> <tr> <td> Soldiers vent fury on civilians in Rizal</td> <td style="text-align: right;">10</td> </tr> <tr> <td> Death squad kills militant doctor</td> <td style="text-align: right;">10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>News</td> <td style="text-align: right;">11</td> </tr> </table>	Editorial	1	Arroyo's lies	3	Medical work in Southern Mindanao	3	Medical work during tactical offensives	4	Mass clinic	5	PNP detains released POWs	5	Victorious NPA offensives		5 soldiers wounded in Bontoc	5	General Sodusta fails in Bicol	6	KAGUMA commemorates 38th anniversary	7	Makabayan: Force in electoral struggle	8	Fascist state on a rampage		Military harrassment in Paquibato	8	Military tortures NPA leader	9	Lumad folk denounce conscription	9	Soldiers vent fury on civilians in Rizal	10	Death squad kills militant doctor	10	News	11
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All Arroyo took home with her from Dubai are a pack of lies

Arroyo cooked up a “job summit” in Dubai, the capital of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), where she met with the 16 leading employers from the UAE and other Middle Eastern countries to beg for more overseas jobs for Filipino workers. Arroyo was especially interested in the UAE because it had been employing the biggest number of foreign workers in recent years. As soon as Arroyo arrived from Dubai, Malacañang immediately announced that she had reportedly clinched a pledge of 221,131 new jobs from the Gulf state and other countries in the Middle East, on top of the jobs allegedly raised by the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration.

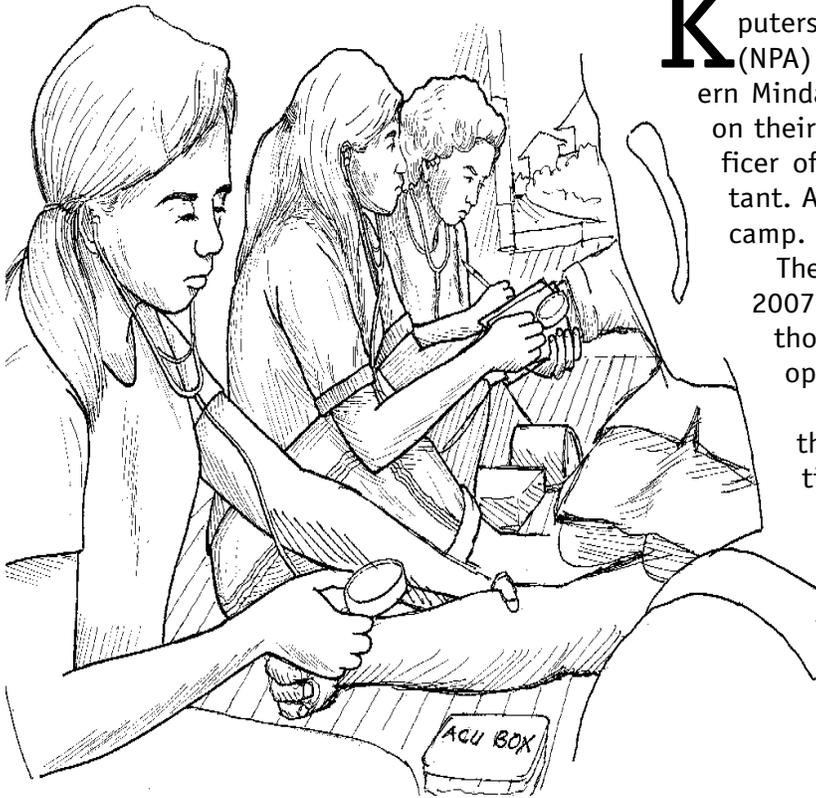
Contrary to Malacañang’s claims that the UAE remains open to the influx of foreign workers, however, it is now limiting the entry of migrant workers. The restrictions are due to the global financial

and economic crisis’ severe blow on the UAE. Twenty-five to 75% of businesses in the UAE (especially in the trading, construction/housing and investment sectors) are in a state of collapse and have closed down. More than \$500 billion worth of construction projects, which used to employ the most number of foreigners, have ground to a halt.

Since October 2008, up to 2,000 foreign workers per day have been receiving formal notices of termination and asked to go home. It is ironic that at the time Arroyo was in the UAE, there were 137 Filipino drivers in the Gulf country who had been promised jobs but ended up empty-handed. They had been reduced to scavenging through a dumpsite to look for food scraps.

The crisis has impacted just as badly on Oman, which has closed its doors to additional foreign workers since July 2008. **AE**

The NPA’s medical work in Southern Mindanao is a resounding success



Ka Mian and Ka Chad were busy working on their computers inside their office in a New People’s Army (NPA) encampment in a mountainous area in Southern Mindanao. They were preparing their annual reports on their unit’s medical work. Ka Mian is the medical officer of an NPA company while Ka Chad is her assistant. All in all, there were 26 medics assembled in the camp.

They reported servicing 3,730 patients from July 2007 to October 2008, including Red fighters and thousands of residents of villages in their areas of operation.

They were able to provide medical services to the masses by conducting mass clinics. During times when conditions permitted, they were able to give individual consultations. Among the usual ailments they treated were influenza, dysentery, sinusitis, tonsillitis, malaria, amoebiasis, hyperacidity, pneumonia, urinary tract infections and ulcers. They were also able to perform minor surgery such as circumcision and removal of cysts and ingrown toenails.

The medical staff systematically took care of their fellow Red fighters' health. They appointed a "medic of the day" (MD) who made sure that rules on sanitation were being followed in every hut and in the kitchen and latrines. For instance, the MD ensured that the Red fighters' lunch boxes were sterilized in the kitchen, especially if there was an epidemic. He or she also made sure that every team or squad had dug up a hole for proper garbage disposal. It is the MD who also monitored the sick and reported on their condition to the central command.

There was a medic assigned to every team or squad. It was these medics who were mainly responsible for monitoring patients. They made sure that the latter took their prescribed medications and regularly monitored the patients' blood pressure and other vital signs.

Individuals who entered the camp and others who requested specific medical assistance were also given proper medical attention. This often happens especially after villagers learn that there is an NPA unit encamped near their barrio. Villagers would seek out the Red fighters just for this purpose.

Based on the experience of comrades in SMR, medical work contributes immensely to organizing work, especially in recovery areas. Through the Red fighters' medical work, it becomes even clearer to the masses that it is the NPA that is their real army.

Ka Chad, on the other hand, had much to say about the unethical behavior of AFP soldiers who conducted Civac in a village in Compostela Valley in 2008.

"We had conducted a mass clinic in our guerrilla front in June 2008. The enemy, along with local

Medical work during tactical offensives

Part of the medical staff's duties is to treat the wounded during tactical offensives. Following NPA regulations, the medical staff plays a role as early as the planning stages of a tactical offensive.

Because medical staffs are always present during tactical offensives and there are times when they have to fight as well, they also undergo military training just like other Red fighters.

In Ka Mian's experience, the NPA spends a fair amount of time preparing medical supplies whenever a tactical offensive is launched. First, the medics have to prepare instruments, equipment and medicines to control bleeding such as elastic bandages, top dressings and cotton balls as well as other emergency medications. They make sure that syringes and instruments for performing minor operations are sterilized and they have ample supplies of anesthetics.

All medics involved have to be united on the plan so that everyone is able to perform his or her tasks smoothly. Third, the medics are assigned to specific stations where they perform particular roles.

The medical staff sets up three stations during battle. Medics assigned to the first station are positioned at the frontline or firing line and are tasked with applying first aid to wounded Red fighters and bringing them to the second station. It is at the second station where the wounded are given further medical treatment by a different set of medics. This station is positioned within the main body. At the third or mobile station, another set of medics stands by with splints, stretchers, hammocks, rope and similar items to transport the wounded to safer ground.

As part of their general military training, all NPA guerrillas go through a short course on how to apply first aid. This is to ensure that not just the medics but all Red fighters are armed with some degree of medical skills.

AB

barangay officials and health workers had earlier provided medical services in May. The villagers had so many complaints because the patients suffered infections. Those who were circumcised complained of swelling in their penises and those who had tooth extractions suffered inflamed gums. They were given some syrup to take. We looked at the labels. "Asus, shame on the enemy for giving out expired medicines." Said one villager, "If you had come earlier, we would have asked you

to perform the operations instead."

The enemy wasn't able to perform all the needed tooth extractions and circumcisions, so the NPA medics attended to these cases. After a few days, the comrades asked how the patients were doing. None of those who had circumcisions or had their teeth extracted was suffering from an infection and their wounds were all healing nicely. "The NPA is unlike any other," said the villagers. "It is without equal."

AB

3 prisoners of war released by the NPA still barred from seeing their families

Several weeks after their release on March 27, three policemen who had been held prisoner by the New People's Army (NPA) have yet to see their families. The Narciso Antazo Aramil Command (NAAC-NPA) has learned that the former prisoners of war are being detained at the Philippine National Police (PNP) provincial headquarters in Hilltop, Barangay Dolores, Taytay, Rizal and have not been allowed to go home.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and the former prisoners' commanding officers in the PNP have subjected Insp. Rex Cuntapay, PO1 Marvin Agasen and PO1 Alberto Umali to long hours of interrogation because they had allegedly been brainwashed by the NPA. The three policemen were never subjected to such treatment during their 83 days in captivity, said NAAC-NPA spokesperson Macario "Ka Karyo" Liwanag.

The Lenten Season had come and gone and still they have not

been able to be with their families. PO1 Agasen was not even allowed to attend his only daughter's graduation. The NPA tried its best to have the policemen released at least a day before Agasen's daughter's graduation because he wanted so much to attend it.

Ka Karyo Liwanag said that the former prisoners of war were merely telling the truth when they said that they were treated well by the NPA and that there were two governments in the Philippines—Gloria Arroyo's reactionary government on the one hand and the Peo-

ple's Democratic Revolutionary Government on the other. Cuntapay and his group were arrested, detained and investigated in accordance with revolutionary policy and authority. They were treated as prisoners of war and unilaterally released by the People's Democratic Government on humanitarian grounds. This is the truth that the reactionary officials of the AFP, PNP and GRP refuse to acknowledge.

Their commanding officers have reportedly been pressuring the three policemen to malign the NPA. They are hard put doing this because they are basically decent persons, said Ka Karyo Liwanag. Nonetheless, since they are still in PNP custody, it would come as no surprise to the revolutionary movement should the three policemen be forced to deny in public what truly happened and reverse their good impressions about the Red fighters of the New People's Army. AB

Mass clinic

The medical staff is an able partner of the NPA company to which Ka Mian belongs as it conducts its organizing work among the masses. "In the NPA's areas of operation, we conduct mass clinics from time to time to enable the people to enjoy their basic right to be provided with health services. It is the medical staff that drafts the necessary plans and programs and these are implemented by the company's platoons under the leadership of the squad and team medics.

"Usually, we have mass clinics when the NPA conducts mass work for the first time in an area. The medical staff or medical officer gives a short course to all Red fighters within a platoon or squad so we could provide services to more people," Ka Chad added.

"We teach everyone the proper way of conducting medical checkups and familiarize them about medical instruments and various ailments and how to treat them." AB

5 soldiers wounded in Bontoc clashes

The Arroyo regime's soldiers failed to disrupt the celebration of the 40th anniversary of the New People's Army (NPA) in Mountain Province after five of them were wounded in ambush and sniping operations launched by the NPA Leonardo Pacsi Command (LPC) from March 30 to April 1 in Mt. Bato and Mt. Degway in Mainit, Bontoc.

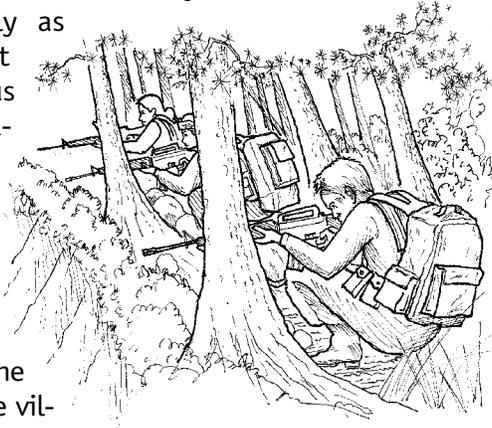
In a report, LPC spokesperson Ka Magno Udyao said the the fascist troops' sinister plans failed because the Red fighters had superior knowledge of the terrain, effectively employed guerrilla tactics and enjoyed strong support from the Cordilleran people. Cordillerans are aware that enemy military operations are closely linked to the immense interests of gigantic mining companies like Lepanto Consolidated Mining Corporation



owned by bourgeois compradors and foreign capitalists.

Before the series of four gunbattles took place, the LPC had received reports on massive enemy movements as early as March 26. At least eight truckloads plus a Humvee full of soldiers had arrived at a Philippine Army patrol base in Barangay Guinaang, Bontoc and in other areas.

Despite this, the people's army and the villagers were still able to



hold a successful celebration of the NPA's 40th anniversary on March 29. The barriofolk had just returned to their homes when the fighting began.

The first two clashes occurred at around 9:30 a.m. on March 30 in Mt. Bato and Mt. Degway. Meanwhile, a small unit under the LPC mounted an ambush on mili-

tary troops making their way up to Mt. Bato at around 2:00 p.m. Reinforcements immediately arrived in Bontoc from Isabela even as two Huey helicopters strafed the area near the fighting.

More reinforcements arrived on March 31 while two helicopters strafed the forested areas of Bontoc and the northern part of Sagada. On April 1, the NPA sniped at soldiers encamped at Mt. Bato at around 6:00 a.m. As a result, more troops were needed from Bontoc to evacuate their wounded. Two Huey helicopters began airlifting the enemy casualties at 8:00 a.m. and finished by 2:00 p.m. **AB**

General Sodusta fails to crush the revolutionary movement in Bicol

When Maj. Gen. Jeffrey Sodusta retired on April 8 as commanding officer of the Philippine Army's 9th Infantry Division (9ID-PA), he brought with him the shame of having failed to crush the revolutionary movement in the Bicol region.

National Democratic Front-Bicol spokesperson Ka Greg Bañares said in a statement that General Sodusta's medals "lacked luster" as the armed revolutionary movement advanced in the region and its mass base prevailed.

The only "achievement" General Sodusta could boast of as chief of the 9th ID-PA and Joint Task Force Bicol (JTFB) is the huge number of extrajudicial killings of innocent civilians, abductions, torture and other fascist atrocities against the people.

The NPA continues to deliver blows on the puppet and reactionary troops of the AFP, PNP and paramilitary forces in Bicol despite

the formation of an entire combat brigade (three battalions at the minimum) and a number of CAFGU companies and the AFP's reliance on US military aid. Bañares said the NPA was able to launch intense tactical offensives in the last month of General Sodusta's watch in the region and dealt numerous casualties which worsened demoralization among the AFP's officers and rank and file.

The AFP launched 25 tactical offensives, comprised of six ambushes, a raid, 16 harassment and sniping operations and punitive actions from January to the first week of April. The NPA went through two defensive battles, but

was able to outmaneuver the mercenary soldiers. Forty-four enemy forces were killed, at least 40 were wounded and a number of high-powered firearms and rounds of ammunition seized from them.

General Sodusta has not learned from his experiences. Before being assigned to Bicol, he was commander of the 303rd Brigade in Negros in 2002 where his much-vaunted Oplan Gordian Knot (the local version of OBL1) also failed. Bañares said Sodusta and all other generals of the AFP and PNP should realize that a counter-revolutionary war can never be victorious even with US support. It does not enjoy any support from the people because it is reactionary to the core, it is brutal and it defends a rotten and oppressive social system.

The NDF-Bicol spokesperson added that despite General Sodusta's retirement as chief of the 9th ID and as one of the leading implementors of the vicious Oplan Bantay Laya 2 (OBL2), he could still be arrested and tried before the revolutionary People's Court. **AB**

KAGUMA commemorates 38th anniversary

The Katipunan ng mga Gurong Makabayan (KAGUMA) celebrated its 38th anniversary on March 28 by publishing a special issue of its newspaper *Liyab*. As the New People's Army's 40th founding anniversary was also to be celebrated the following day, KAGUMA likewise paid tribute to the NPA's valor and heroism as the genuine army and defender of the Filipino people's national and democratic interests.

Liyab's special issue reprinted Prof. Jose Maria Sison's essay entitled "On the National Democratic Teachers' Movement" to commemorate KAGUMA's anniversary. In his essay, Sison emphasized that now is the time to face the challenges of dismantling the foundations of semicolonial and semifeudal Philippine society and US imperialism. The revolutionary forces in the Philippines and other nations, he added, are rapidly rising to replace the old with the new.

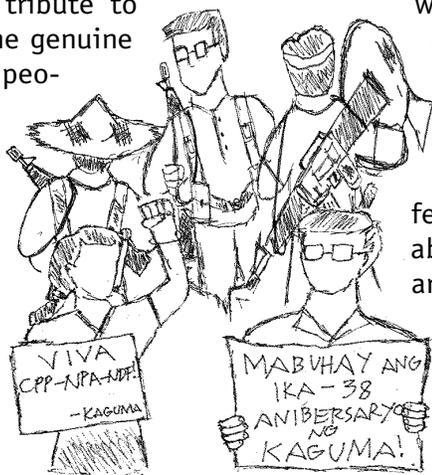
He furthered that all current and future teachers who are on the side of truth, justice and progress must unite under the Second Great Propaganda Movement and be a definitive force for the national-democratic movement. To achieve this, they must repudiate all forms of irrelevant ideas in the schools, grasp the

ideas that could guide the national-democratic revolution and firmly apply them to concrete conditions in the Philippines.

Also published in *Liyab* was Chairman Mao Zedong's article encouraging intellectuals like teachers, writers, artists and scientific researchers to go to the countryside. Mao said that it would be very unfortunate if an intellectual failed to meet even a single worker or peasant in his or her lifetime.

KAGUMA members also paid tribute to fellow teacher Rebelyn Pitao, 20, who was abducted, tortured, raped and killed by armed minions of the US-Arroyo regime on March 4. KAGUMA said the brutal murder of Rebelyn and all other victims of state terrorism, fascism and imperialism justified and demonstrated the correctness of the resolute involvement of hundreds of thousands of teachers and millions of Filipinos in the democratic revolution.

KAGUMA is an underground national democratic organization of teachers, student teachers and employees in the educational sector who are united in waging the people's democratic revolution. It is one of the allied organizations of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP). With the imposition of martial rule in September 1972 by the US-Marcos dictatorship, all open national democratic mass organizations including KAGUMA were illegalized. **AB**



Makabayan: A timely force in the electoral struggle

This is a historic occasion that signifies...a major advance of the people's movement for genuine national independence, democracy, social justice and all-round development." This was the message of Prof. Jose Maria Sison to the Makabayang Koalisyon ng Mamamayan (MAKABAYAN) on its founding assembly. MAKABAYAN, a coalition of progressive parties led by Bayan Muna, ANAKPAWIS and GABRIELA was launched at the Bahay ng Alumni, University of the Philippines, Quezon City on April 16.

MAKABAYAN aims to join the electoral struggle by fielding its own candidates for various levels of government and cooperating with other parties and personalities who subscribe to its objectives.

Sison added that the founding of MAKABAYAN is a timely consolidation of the achievements in electoral struggle of the progressive party list groups and related mass organizations. It is a prompt preparation for the elections in 2010 and counters the schemes of the US-Arroyo regime to push charter change, to prolong the power of the Arroyo clique or to rig the 2010 elections in favor of the worst reactionaries.

Sison described MAKABAYAN as the strongest opposition force in terms of being the most principled instrument of the people, having the most cogent patriotic and progressive platform, gathering the most dedicated and most active volunteers in the service of the people and enjoying the strongest and most reli-

able mass base on a nationwide scale. He added that the progressive party list groups and their leaders and members have proven their integrity and are well tested in resisting the temptations of puppetry and corruption in sharp contrast to the corruption and lack of integrity that define the traditional politicians.

Sison commended MAKABAYAN's principles and general program, which respond to the people's demand for the politics of fundamental change and substantial reforms, for good governance, for uplifting the poor, for upholding national sovereignty

and other just and compelling causes.

MAKABAYAN's founding assembly that carried the theme "Filipinos for change! Change for the

when they are suffering extremely from oppression and exploitation, said Sison.

Among the personalities present at the inauguration were Sens. Manuel Roxas, Ana Consuelo Madrigal and Francis Pangilinan, Reps. Matias Defensor, Teofisto Guingona III, Del de Guzman, Abigail Binay, Rodolfo Plaza and Jose de Venecia and his wife Gina, Mayor Feliciano Belmonte and Vice Mayor Herbert Bautista of Quezon City, former Sen. Leticia Ramos-Shahani, National Artist Bienvenido Lumera and film director Joel Lamangan. **AB**



Filipinos!", not only amplifies the proposed platform but also the concrete plans for serving the immediate needs and demands of the people, especially at this time

Military harassment in Paquibato District, Davao City

Paquibato district in Davao City is a virtual garrison due to intensified militarization. Government soldiers have mounted an M60 machine gun on the veranda of the village hall in Barangay Mabuhay. At Crossing Hasil along the Paquibato and Panabo City border, soldiers manning a checkpoint stop all vehicles for inspection.

Human rights abuses are rampant in Paquibato. The latest atrocity was the killing on March 12 of Uriel Emata Clerigo, a Paquibato resident and one of Davao City mayor Rodrigo Duterte's local ward leaders. Clerigo was gunned down by military elements inside his house in Paradise Embac. He was among the staunchest critics of the intensifying militarization in Paquibato and the growing presence of military troops in the area.

On March 2, six Paquibato residents were held at a military checkpoint and ordered to present

their residence certificates or cedulas. They were on their way to testify at a hearing called by the Davao City Council on the mauling of civilians by the military.

In a separate incident, Elgin Damasco, news director of RMN-DXDC-Davao reported receiving death threats from the military. He received a chilling text message from an unknown sender during his morning radio program on March 16. The texter threatened to kill him for allegedly acting as a spokesperson for the NPA. Suspicious-looking men were also recently seen around Damasco's neighbourhood. Neighbors said the men were asking them where he and RMN-DXDC-Davao station manager Dodong Solis lived.

Damasco was in Paquibato on February 23 to check on reported beatings of residents by soldiers. He interviewed a village official who confirmed the reports. Damasco returned to Paquibato on March

1 and it was then that he witnessed firsthand how the military harassed villagers at the checkpoints. The reactionary soldiers stopped their vehicle and asked the people inside to present their cedulas. The soldiers said that they only honored cedulas with the initials of a certain military officer at the back. This irked Damasco, and his heated arguments with the military were aired live on his radio program.

Damasco also reported the harassment suffered by Sister Stella Matutina and other antimining activists in Barangay Taytayan, Baganga, Davao Oriental. He was also one of the journalists who interviewed NPA leader Ka Parago after the gruesome murder of his daughter Rebelyn.

The National Union of Journalists of the Philippines-Davao has condemned the intense military harassment of journalists who strive to expose military abuses. **AB**

Military tortures captured NPA leader

The daughter of captured NPA leader Reginaldo Alicaba, Sr. alias “Ka Emong” has disclosed that her father was severely tortured by military elements. Ka Emong was on medical leave when the military arrested him without warrant on January 18. Rizalyn Manguilimotan, 28, recounted that her father’s ears, knees and feet were swollen when she saw him at the Eastern Mindanao Command headquarters in Camp Panacan. Ka Emong was tortured on January 20, before he and his daughter’s arrival at Camp Panacan.

Manguilimotan, who was arrested with her father said that when she and Ka Emong were interrogated separately by the military, she could hear her father pleading with the soldiers to stop the torture. The next day, upon being brought to Camp Panacan, her

father told her that electric shocks were applied on his testicles and that the military threatened to slit his throat if he did not reveal where his NPA comrades were. Ka Emong also had an inch-long gash on the bridge of his nose. To prevent him from posting bail, the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) filed trumped-up charges such as murder, kidnapping, robbery and arson against Ka Emong, even if he was mentioned by name in only three of these cases.

Ka Emong’s torture by the military is in violation of Articles 13 and 17 of the Geneva Conventions that stipulate that the prisoners of war must receive humane treatment and must not be subjected to any form of physical or mental torture or forced to reveal information of any kind. AB

Lumad folk condemn AFP for forcibly recruiting them into paramilitary groups

KALUMARAN, an organization of Lumad in Mindanao strongly denounced the forced recruitment of Lumad folk into Task Force Gantangan, a paramilitary group. The Lumad are used as human shields in the government’s counterrevolutionary campaign against the CPP-NPA, which is a blatant violation of basic human rights. KALUMARAN secretary general Dulphing Ogan said that Lumad are being recruited as paramilitary forces against their will and that those who refuse are automatically branded as NPA and become targets of harassment.

Over a hundred Lumad folk from five major national minority groups in Mindanao picketed the Mines and Geosciences Bureau and the Eastern Mindanao Command headquarters in Camp Panacan in March after a three-day gathering where participants recounted cases of killings and harassment of Lumad in different parts of Mindanao. The pickets demanded the

immediate cessation of militarization in the countryside and a stop to the forced recruitment of Lumad in military operations. They also demanded an immediate halt to the encroachment of big mining firms and plantations that threatens food security in their ancestral lands.

Lumad paramilitary recruits are made to work 24 hours without pay. They are sometimes ordered to go on patrol armed only with bolos. They are starving because they could no longer work their farms.

Task Force Gantangan is part of the National Internal Security Plan’s (NISP) design to crush the revolutionary movement by the end of Gloria Arroyo’s term by using national minorities to fight the NPA. Task Force Gantangan calls for the formation of paramilitary organizations with Lumad-sounding names like Bagani force, Alimaong tribal justice, Manggahat and Alamara. Barangay Defense Systems (BDS) are also established

in Lumad and settler areas.

Task Force Gantangan also calls for the fake surrender of entire Lumad communities whose members are forced to admit that they are NPA.

The military sows intrigues among the Lumad to divide them and destroy their unity in order to facilitate the entry of giant mining and plantation firms and enable the latter to gain control over the Lumad’s ancestral lands, said KALUMARAN vice chairperson Norma Capuyan. The entry of big mining and plantation firms poses a grave threat to the Lumad’s food security. They can not eat jathropa which is planted in over 500 hectares in Malungon, South Cotabato. Four of the ten identified priority mining projects of the Arroyo regime are located in South Cotabato, Compostela Valley and Davao Oriental where Lumad are being displaced by ongoing military operations. AB



Military vents its fury on civilians in Rizal

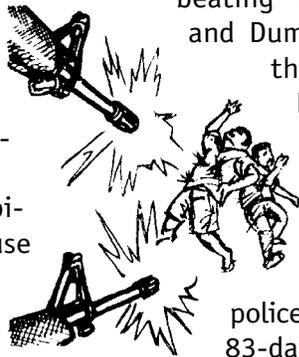
Elements of the 16th IB Charlie Coy mercilessly killed a barangay captain on March 28 on mere suspicion that he was cooperating with the New People's Army (NPA). Claudio Lastimada, barangay captain of Macabud, Rodriguez, Rizal and his son-in-law Salvador Abarina were instantly killed in an ambush by armed men whose faces were covered with ski masks. Three other civilians were wounded in the ambush.

The perpetrators, who are based beside the San Jose Builders Subdivision in San Jose, Rodriguez, Rizal, were led by 2nd Lieutenant Lopez.

The military was suspicious of Lastimada because he reported the burning of a dump truck to the police on January 3.

The NPA later waylaid the five-man police team from the 418th Provincial Mobile Group that had been lured to the ambush site. The ambush killed one policeman, wounded another and the three others were taken prisoner.

The fascist military has also



been harassing, threatening and beating up farmers, settlers and Dumagat tribespeople in the municipalities of Rodriguez, San Mateo, Baras, Teresa and Antipolo City on suspicion that they helped the NPA hide the three policemen throughout their 83-day captivity.

The 16th IB is a terror army battalion that earned its notoriety under the butcher Gen. Jovito Palparan. Under Palparan's reign of terror, it was responsible for murdering civilians and decapitating some of its victims to sow fear in communities suspected of supporting the NPA. **AB**

Anti-chacha protests intensify anew

PROTESTS against the Arroyo clique's plan to amend the constitution intensified anew when Congress reconvened on April 13. On that day, the House Committee on Constitutional Amendments resumed hearing resolutions filed by Arroyo's minions in Congress seeking the transformation of the Lower House into a constituent assembly.

BAYAN members marched along Batasan road where they were met by contingents from the Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU) and Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP) from Southern Tagalog. The picket at the Batasan will be maintained until June 6, the last day of Congress' second regular session.

Protesting students created quite a stir in Congress and eventually caused the session's suspension when they began wearing hats with anti-chacha slogans and managed to enter the Congressional hall. The guards confiscated their hats and booted them out.

Death squad kills progressive doctor

Men wearing ski masks and armed with M16 rifles and .45 caliber pistols repeatedly fired at and killed Dr. Bartolome Resuello, 62, on April 1 in Barangay Cababtuan, Pambujan, Northern Samar. Resuello had been a known activist since the time of martial rule. He was the vice chairperson of Bayan Muna in Northern Samar from 2000 to 2003 and one of the founders of PESANTE-Northern Samar, a militant farmers' organization in the province.

The assassination took place at around 5:30 p.m. while he was headed home aboard his motorcycle.

Resuello survived an earlier attempt on his life when gunmen strafed him as he was riding his motorcycle in Barangay Doña Lucia, Mondragon, Northern Samar in March 2006.

KATUNGOD-Sinirangan Bisayas strongly condemned Resuello's killing. **AB**

130 schools to hike tuition fees

UP to 130 private and state universities and colleges are set to increase tuition fees this coming school year as reported by the Tuition Monitor Hotline of the National Union of Students of the Philippines which has been following up the issue since February.

The Commission on Higher Education (CHED) said the impending tuition fee hikes range from 5% to 10%. Among the schools that will be hiking fees are 30 private schools in the National Capital Re-

gion, 26 in Calabarzon, 15 in Northern Mindanao, ten in Bicol, eight in Davao, seven in Soccsargen, six in Western Visayas, two in Mimaropa and one each in ARMM and CAR.

Arroyo's purported move to prevent impending tuition fee increases in state colleges and universities amid the raging economic crisis is a big deception. In fact, a number of fee increases have already been secretly approved by the University of the Philippines Board of Regents.

For instance, graduate students

at the UP Mindanao School of Management will now have to pay P1,000 per unit, up from P400 per unit and P2,330 in miscellaneous fees, up from P1,530 per semester. Under the UP Diliman College of Home Economics graduate program, a unit will now cost P2,500, up from the previous P550. There will also be a big increase in fees charged by the graduate program of the School of Statistics where fees per unit will soar from P600 to P2,500. Incoming students employed at government offices and who do not enjoy scholarships will

now have to pay P2,000, up from the previous P300 per unit. Under the graduate programs of the UP Extension Program in Pampanga and Olongapo, tuition fees will likewise be raised from P1,500 to P2,500 per unit.

Meanwhile, Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo called on CHED to keep a tight watch on private schools that are set to raise tuition and other fees. He said CHED must be able to put a lid on hikes in school expenses and that every citizen must be able to have sufficient education.

NDFP belies NPA mass surrenders

"BOGUS!" This was how the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) called claims by the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) that members of the New People's Army (NPA) have been surrendering en masse. Lt. Gen. Victor Ibrado who will soon take over as AFP chief claimed that over 40 NPA members and supporters defected to the reactionary government from March 23 to April 16 of this year and availed of the Arroyo government's "Social Integration Program" (SIP).

NDFP Human Rights Committee

chair Fidel Agcaoili said General Ibrado's statement only serve previous AFP declarations that it will be able to crush the armed revolutionary movement by 2010. Agcaoili disclosed that the huge fund allocations for "rebel returnees" only end up in the pockets of battalion commanders and high-ranking AFP officers.

Last year, the Arroyo government infused P18.8 million into the bogus SIP. Under the SIP, which is administered by the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process, P20,000 is supposedly

given to every rebel returnee, with an additional P50,000 for every firearm turned over. Rebel returnees are also allegedly granted amnesty under Arroyo's Presidential Proclamation 1377.

If the AFP's media releases are to be believed, the military should already be winning the war against the revolutionary movement at this point. In reality, however, no less than the AFP high command has admitted that the NPA remains the main security threat to the reactionary government.

Armed struggle in Peru and India continue to advance

THE armed struggle of the revolutionary forces in Peru and India continue to advance.

Shining Path (Sendero Luminoso) revolutionary fighters have been attacking military forces in the southeastern part of Peru. Sendero Luminoso is the revolutionary army led by Partido Comunista de Peru (PCP). The Defense Department of the reactionary Peruvian government has admitted to suffer-

ing 12 soldiers killed, including a captain. Two others were wounded and one remains missing after an ambush by the revolutionary forces on April 9. Many of the patrolling reactionary soldiers fell into a ravine after the guerrillas lobbed grenades and dynamite at them.

The clash is among the more remarkable ones in the past several decades in Peru since the PCP resumed the armed revolution. The

victory belies earlier declarations by the reactionary Peruvian government that the armed revolution had been crushed after the capture of its principal leader Abimael Guzman in 1992.

Meanwhile, Maoist guerrillas raided a bauxite mine in eastern India in the morning of April 13, killing at least eight policemen. Not a single miner or company employee was hurt in the assault.

UN Security Council moves a “declaration of war”—*North Korea*

THE North Korean government announced on April 18 that it will consider as a “declaration of war” any sanction or pressure imposed by the United Nations (UN) Security Council for its rocket launch on April 5.

The revolutionary army of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK) is already ready to take action at any time to exact punish-

ment without delay on anyone who will dare trample even slightly on the sovereignty and integrity of DPRK, said Pyongyang.

“Now that the group (UN) has officially declared confrontation and war against the DPRK, the revolutionary army will resolve to expand its national defense capacity including its nuclear arms to prevent any attack in any manner...,” added North Korea.

This statement by North Korea was in response to the UN Security Council’s condemnation on April 13 of its rocket launch. The UN condemnation which was instigated by the US cited a 2006 UN Security Council ban on the launching of any ballistic missile by North Korea.

North Korea has clarified that its only goal in launching its rocket was to send a communications satellite into space.