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Editorial:

SALUTING OUR REVOLUTIONARY MARTYRS BY RESOLUTELY ADVANCING PROTRACTED PEOPLE'S WAR

Dismal Failure.

These words best describe the Manila government's efforts to arrest the continued advance of the national-democratic revolution through protracted people's war. And its counter-revolutionary record in Central Visayas since 1999 attests to this fact.

For armed struggle, genuine land reform and base building, the three integral aspects of the national-democratic revolution, continue to reap steady gains in practically all the guerrilla fronts in the region. The people's democratic government thus weakens gradually reactionary rule in the countryside.

And by correctly employing united front tactics, the Party, NPA and NDF strengthens the working-class leadership and the unity of all positive forces. This even as contradictions within the reactionary ruling class is exploited to fight the worst reactionary clique of a given time and serve armed resistance as well as unarmed and secondary forms of struggle.

The line of revolutionary advance is clear: extensive and intensive guerrilla warfare based on an ever-widening and ever-deepening mass base within the strategy of encircling the cities from the countryside.

Revolutionary gains are however not achieved without revolutionary sacrifice.

Our Red salute therefore to *Ka Jaya* and five other comrades martyred last June 23 in Brgy. Burgos, Talibon; to *Ka Anu* martyred last May 12 in Brgy. Bungon, Tabuelan; and to *Ka Simsi* and two others martyred last February 19 in Brgy. Tanod, Anda.

Like other revolutionary martyrs before them, their ultimate sacrifice assures victory for the two-stage revolution. ■



Peoples' War in Central Visayas

Two Years of Revolutionary Advance

The worsening crisis of the reactionary ruling system drives the oppressed classes to warmly embrace the revolutionary cause and resolutely advance the national-democratic revolution to a new and higher level. As in other regions in the country, this truism was proven by the revolutionary movement in Central Visayas during the last two years when, for the first time in more than a decade, the reactionary Manila government decided to re-employ Army troops in its counter-revolutionary campaign in the region.

In Bohol, it formed in September 1999 the Bohol Island Task Force (BITF), with the Army's 12th Infantry Battalion (IB) based in Brgy. Katipunan, Carmen as its lead fighting unit. Months later, this was upgraded into the Task Group Bohol (TGB). Its counterpart in Cebu is the Task Group Sugbo (TGS), launched in April 2000 after the victorious Red army raid of the Sogod municipal PNP station. But all these were no match to the revolutionary movement's strict adherence to an extensive and intensive guerrilla warfare based on an ever-widening and ever-deepening mass base. ▶

POETRY

Ang Lihok sa Kagabhion

“tay kinsa nang tawhana?”

“kauban na `day”

Ming-agi usa usab ang ‘tawo sa gabii’
nagtsinelas, nagpas-an og bugas
nagabibit sa iyang usang abaga og ‘taas’ –
gamit depensa isip sundalo nila.

Nanuktok sa pultahan ning kubo namong gamay
nagkamustahanay sila ni nanay ug tatay,
nag-istoryahanay dayon og hinay.

Giduol nako ang akong dunggan sa bungbong
aron makapaminaw. Apan ang ako lang nabatian:
“magtigum kita...

pasabton kanunay sila...

palig-onon ang organisasyon...

ayaw’g kahadlok, padayon...

aduna kitay diskusyon...

sulbaron ta ning atong problema...”

Kanunay siyang galakaw sa ngitngit
bisag ulan o baha sa among dapit

Asa mo nagpuyo?

Gidala-dala ang among balay
tungod duyan kining ginakatulgan.

Nagtapad mi og yaka sa salog
samtang naglubo sa mais,

Nag-atbanganay gihapon og pungko
samtang gihuman ang banig og himo



Ang wala nako nasabtan kadtong
iyang gisaysay kang nanay,
“tungod sa pagpangga sa masa
nahupas ang gibati kong
kamingaw sa akong pamilya.”

Diha sa sunod niyang pagbalik
aduna siya’y kuyog nga susama niya,
nagpurong sa ulo, mga taas
ang bukton sa kamisina nga makit-an mamisita
nianang ang adlaw nanago ug natulog na.

Sa ilang paglakaw niadtong gabiiha
mingdagan ko ug minglili sa bintana
para makatan-aw hangtud sa ilang pagpanaw
kay pagakan-on sa kangitngit sa kagabhion.

Nanghinuktok ko sa duha nakong kamot,
ug nagapangutana: kanus-a ba kaha ko
maparchas ug mokuyos kanila?

Mahal Martin-ao

Nov. 23, 1997

Contents

1 Saluting Our Revolutionary
Martyrs by Resolutely
Advancing Protracted
People’s War

1 Two Years of Revolutionary
Advance

2 Ang Lihok sa Kagabhion

5 Hollow Reactionary Elections,
Meaningful Revolutionary Gains

6 REGIONAL NEWS

8 Fear Not!



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To Our Readers

The Editorial Staff of **PAKIGBISOG** calls on its readers to contribute to the improvement of our publication through comments and suggestions, news items, or sharing of revolutionary experiences. We will be more than welcome to entertain them.

TWO YEARS OF REVOLUTIONARY ADVANCE

Initial Fruits of the Rectification Movement

Under the absolute leadership of the Party and guided by the lessons of the 2nd Great Rectification Movement, the NPA gradually implemented the three integral aspects of the national democratic revolution, namely: base building, armed struggle and genuine land reform.

In late 1996 and early 1997, simultaneous breakthroughs were achieved in the guerrilla zones of the NPA Chocolate Hills Front 1 Command: revolutionary justice system in Catigbian town (where a notorious murderer, cattle-rustler and criminal gang leader was meted the death sentence), an armed tactical offensive in Carmen town (where three high-powered rifles were seized from members of the abusive PNP 2nd Provincial Mobile Group), and an anti-feudal struggle in Balilihan town (where usury was reduced by at least 50%).

Thus, from January 1997 to May 1999, the number of barrios within the various guerrilla fronts in the region rose from several scores to a few hundreds. Barrios with appointed organs of political power, or where at least peasant organizing committees (OCs) were in place, reached a few scores.

Tactical Offensives

The Party wages the national-democratic revolution through protracted people's war by encircling the cities from the countryside. The NPA implements armed struggle as the principal form of struggle to advance armed revolution from its current strategic defensive stage to a new and higher level. It launches armed tactical offensives against specific enemy targets that are politically and military vulnerable. Thus, political power in the countryside is gradually seized from the ruling foreign monopoly-bourgeoisie, big comprador-bourgeoisie and landlord classes. This shall continue until the cities, where reactionary power is strongest, are encircled and political power can be seized nationwide to establish a democratic coalition government.

From June 1999 to May 2001, the various NPA

guerrilla front commands in the region launched 10 victorious armed tactical offensives to seize firearms from the fascist AFP/PNP and their paramilitary partners, break the fighting morale of the reactionary armed forces, protect the interests of the revolutionary masses and strengthen the countryside-based people's democratic government. In these armed tactical offensives, a total of 82 high-powered firearms (HPRs) and more than 35 short arms were seized from enemy troops. Fifteen AFP/PNP and CAFGU elements were killed in these armed tactical offensives while the people's army suffered no casualties and only 7 wounded fighters.

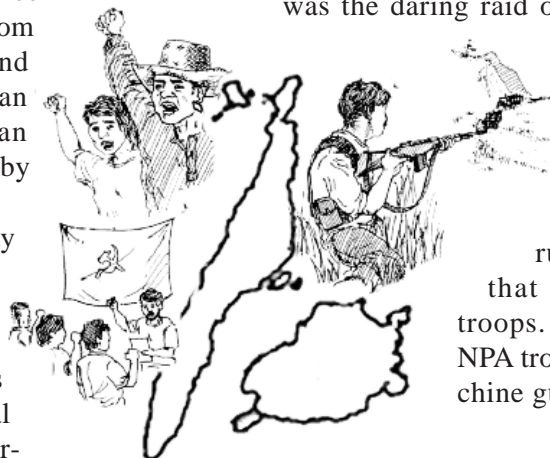
Most outstanding of these armed tactical offensives was the daring raid of the headquarters of the PNP Regional Mobile Group Combat Support Company (RMG-CSC) in Brgy. Rizal, Batuan, Bohol last June 11, 1999. The Red army overran the fortified PNP position by combining a

ruse and commando operation that completely confused enemy troops. Without firing a single shot, NPA troops seized a mortar, a M-60 machine gun, 60 other HPRs and 20 short arms from the PNP camp. Consistent with international humanitarian law provisions on prisoners of war, the NPA merely gave an hour-long lecture to the 36 demoralized PNP personnel.

Also noteworthy was the decoy-ambush on the elite Army Special Forces (SF) and CAFGU elements in Brgy. Sta. Catalina, Sagbayan, Bohol last March 2,

the revolutionary mass base in Cebu and Bohol continued to widen and deepen. From June 1999 to May 2001, the number of barrios within the various guerrilla fronts rose by more than 95%.

2000. The NPA Chocolate Hills Front 1 Command induced the reactionary army to move its troops along the provincial highway by staging an early morning attack of its outpost in Balilihan town. A few hours later, the NPA ambushed a truckload of reinforcing SF and CAFGU troops, killing in the ensuing ▶



TWO YEARS OF REVOLUTIONARY ADVANCE

firefight 10 enemy troops and seizing 12 HPRs. The Red army suffered no casualties and only 2 wounded fighters. NPA medics also applied first aid to 4 wounded enemy troops before withdrawing from the ambush site.

Anti-Feudal Struggles

To achieve a truly democratic society and empower majority of the people who belong to the peasant class, the national democratic revolution implements genuine land reform in stages. Given the current balance of forces, the NPA assists the revolutionary peasant masses in launching the minimum program of genuine land reform. This program consists of reducing land rent and usury, increasing wages and farm gate price of agricultural products, and protecting sideline occupations.

During the last two years, hundreds of peasant masses in the guerrilla zones of the NPA Chocolate Hills Front 1, Vicente Padayao Front 2 and Francisco Dagohoy Front 3 Commands benefited from their successful campaigns, especially in reducing usury and increasing farm wage.

The NPA also encouraged the revolutionary peasant masses in their struggle against patently anti-people GRP laws and programs that threaten their lives and livelihood. In Bohol, peasant masses living within or in the periphery of the Rajah Sikatuna National Park, the Wahig-Inabanga Watershed Area and the famed Chocolate Hills resisted moves to deprive them of tilling rights in so-called “protected areas” under the anti-peasant NIPAS Act of 1992. In Cebu, peasant masses militantly rejected GRP reforestation programs that favor “for-export” trees and fruits that displace their traditional food crops.

Painstaking Base-Building

In the hope of arresting the steady growth of the revolutionary movement, the Estrada fascist regime ordered the AFP in mid-1999 to take over the counter-revolutionary campaign all over the country. In Bohol, it deployed the Philippine Army (PA) 12th Infantry Battalion (IB) in September 1999, then replaced it with the PA 801st Brigade in June 2000,

and recently replaced it again with the PA 302nd Brigade in March 2001. It also formed Task Force Sugbo composed of several AFP and PNP units. To augment these, it activated at least three CAFGU companies in the region during the last two years.

But the revolutionary mass base in Cebu and Bohol continued to widen and deepen. From June 1999 to May 2001, the number of barrios within the various guerrilla fronts rose by more than 95%. In more than a fourth of these barrios, appointive organs of political power or peasant organizing committees (OCs) already exist. Tens of thousands of peasants, women and the youth belong to thousands of peasant organizing groups (OGs) all over the region. Thus, the revolutionary peasant masses were able to undertake health campaigns and other activities to alleviate their living conditions.

The people’s democratic government continued to exercise its governmental functions during the last two years. The revolutionary justice system tried more than 12 cases ranging from the heinous crime of rape to less serious offenses like theft. Depending on the result of the trial, those found guilty were meted the penalties of fine, banishment (*destierro*) or death.

The people’s democratic government also ordered the NPA Arnulfo Ortiz Regional Operational Command to impose punitive measures against foreign monopoly firms and big Filipino business enterprises that operated within or in the periphery of the various guerrilla fronts but refused to comply with the revolutionary tax policy. Among those punished were Japanese construction giants Kanematsu Consortium and Toa Corporation, as well as Filipino enterprises AER Construction and ACDC. Also hit were telecom monopoly firms Smart Communications and Islacom.

Revolutionary United Front Work

Inasmuch as the national democratic revolution through protracted people’s war can be won only by adhering to revolutionary united front principles and tactics, the people’s democratic government must constantly strengthen the ranks of all positive forces, take advantage of the splits within the reactionary ruling classes and defeat the narrowest target of a given time.

For the region to contribute to this national effort, it is imperative for the Party to constantly grasp the prevailing war situation and its revolutionary role not only in relation to Central Visayas, but to the entire southern Philippines as well.

Hollow reactionary elections, meaningful revolutionary gains

As contradictions among the ruling class grew sharper amid the unabated economic and political crisis of the semicolonial and semifeudal order, the local and national elections of 2001 proved to be one of the more violent and fraudulent elections ever. From January to late May, at least 100 were killed, 141 wounded and injured, and 30 missing from election-related incidences of violence. Coercion, vote buying, and other forms of electoral fraud were just as prevalent as before.

A persisting past

Central Visayas has consistently been a showcase of this vicious and bankrupt character of reactionary elections. Sharp contradictions among the local ruling classes have time and again culminated in rampant electoral fraud and violence in practically all of Cebu's eight and Bohol's three congressional districts.

The May 14, 2001 polls only further demonstrated that elections do not serve the purpose of mending factional contradictions of the ruling class, even if certain sections among them wish so. Its outcome only worsened division and violent strife among the various factions of the ruling class and indicated that the Macapagal-Arroyo regime and the pro-Estrada reactionaries are bound for more intense and violent contradictions. Clearly, the elections have only further exposed the inutility



and rottenness of reactionary rule.

The Party, people's army and revolutionary forces were correct in clarifying to the broad masses that no meaningful and lasting changes can ever take place through these elections. Thus, revolutionary armed struggle should persist towards total victory of the national democratic revolution. At the same time, the revolutionary forces have correctly utilized revolutionary dual tactics, thereby reaching out to the broader masses of the people and exposing any illusions conjured by the ruling class that elections are a democratic exercise.

All-rounded gains for the revolution

Compared therefore to the 1998 reactionary polls, the revolutionary movement

◀ Thus, the revolutionary movement in the region encouraged all democratic forces, progressive elements and the less reactionary factions of the ruling classes to unite in the broadest possible anti-Estrada front. By doing so, it was able to contribute to the final overthrow of the corrupt Estrada regime through the People Power II uprising last January 2001.

During the last two years, the people's democratic government also continued to conduct discreet meetings with reactionary politicians of areas within or in the periphery of the various guerrilla fronts. Aside from explaining the policies and programs of the people's democratic government, such meetings were conducted to either explore possible areas of mutual cooperation or register the revolutionary movement's rejection of patently anti-people programs being implemented in the locality. Discreet meetings with PNP personnel were also continued to dissuade them from

arming civilians and organizing anti-revolutionary intelligence networks.

Continuing the Revolutionary Advance

The revolutionary struggle to end the semi-colonial, semi-feudal social order in the country is long and full of sacrifice. But with the absolute class leadership of the Party and the gradual advance of armed struggle and the national united front, the revolutionary movement is sure to advance towards a new and higher level until the final victory of the national-democratic revolution.

For the region to contribute to this national effort, it is imperative for the Party to constantly grasp the prevailing war situation and its revolutionary role not only in relation to Central Visayas, but to the entire southern Philippines as well. ■

The revolutionary forces have correctly utilized revolutionary dual tactics, thereby reaching out to the broader masses of the people and exposing any illusions conjured by the ruling class that elections are a democratic exercise.

expanded its ranks and created headway in reaching out to significant sections of the middle forces, progressive and friendly reactionary politicians.

The Party, people's army and revolutionary forces creatively exploited the conditions brought forth by these elections to explore broader possibilities of mutual cooperation with local reactionaries in order to isolate the most reactionary sections of the local ruling classes and neutralize efforts of the reactionary state in heightening its counterrevolutionary campaign in the region. In particular, regional and front-level Party cadres actively conducted discreet talks with several scores of progressive and reactionary politicians who vied for local and national positions. Compared to those reached during the 1998 elections, their number rose by more than 500%.

Grasping firm the importance of defending and asserting the authority and integrity of the territories of the peoples' democratic government during the electoral farce, the revolutionary forces in the region imposed policies appropriate in this regard, including the imposition of *access fees* to candidates within its areas. Uncooperative elements, particularly those who insisted on their schemes of electoral terror and fraud were met with punitive actions from the New Peoples' Army in the region. In the process, the revolutionary forces accumulated resources, logistics and firearms more than two folds bigger than that of 1998.

The keen attention of cadres and mass activists to the people's cry for genuine reforms and changes during the election period provided greater opportunity to develop mass struggles, advance armed struggle, expand the revolutionary base in more than a hundred barrios, strengthen the revolutionary united front and further exploit and deepen the rifts among local reactionaries within a four-month period.

The reactionary elections and the entire ruling semicolonial and semifeudal order are increasingly becoming decrepit further underscoring the need for fundamental and lasting solutions to basic social ills. These gains are invaluable to the revolutionary movement its march towards a new and higher stage of national democratic revolution through protracted people's war. ■

achieved more and bigger victories from the recent May 14 electoral exercise.

The legal democratic forces in the region appropriately carried through the electoral campaign of Bayan Muna, modestly contributing to its eventual top position in the partylist elections nationwide. The result somewhat approximated the prestige accumulated by the progressive forces in the struggle for meaningful social reforms and in ousting Estrada. Additionally, the legal democratic movement significantly



REGIONAL NEWS

ASSERTING REVOLUTIONARY AUTHORITY DURING THE ELECTIONS...

March 17. Two squads of the NPA Vicente Padayao Command conducted a mass meeting and disarming operation in brgy. Danasan, Danao City, Cebu. In a baranggay basketball court, the Red fighters discussed to the peasant masses the bankruptcy of reactionary elections, the need to persist in strengthening revolutionary armed struggle, and the specific policies of the people's democratic government on the conduct of candidates campaigning within guerrilla fronts and zones.

Afterwards, a local ward of ex-Congressman Nito Durano turned over to the Red fighters an M-16 rifle provided to him by the said politician.

April 27. A 6-man unit of the NPA Arnulfo Mendez Command disarmed hired goons of Mayor Bacalio Balahay during a midnight campaign rally in brgy. Cabatag, Alicia, Bohol. Balahay had flatly refused efforts by the people's democratic government for talks on electoral guidelines within guerilla territories and corresponding access fees thereof. A .45 caliber pistol and .38 caliber revolver were confiscated in the said operation.

April 28. For persistently refusing to conduct discreet talks with the NPA and failing to abide by the policies set by the revolutionary movement on the conduct of candidates' campaign, 20 Red fighters of the NPA Vicente Padayao Command raided Carmen Mayor Virginio Villamor's poultry farm in brgy. Korte and a nearby rest house in brgy. Lanipga. A 12-gauge shotgun and a 9mm pistol were confiscated from the

Mayor's two properties.

May 13. The NPA Chocolate Hills Command seized a Magnum .357 handgun from armed supporters of incumbent Mayor Boy Samuya at a checkpoint in brgy. Masunoy, San Isidro, Bohol. The NPA earlier received reports from the revolutionary peasant masses that four armed men were harassing the peasant masses in Masunoy and nearby baranggays of the said town.

In that operation, a 7-man NPA unit stopped two motorcycle-riding armed persons at around 11 in the evening in Brgy. Masunoy and seized the handgun from one of its passengers. When they tried to stop a second motorcycle, its two passengers who were armed with .45 pistols fired upon them. The Red fighters were forced to fire back, hitting at least one of the armed men. The operation was one among the several checkpoints set up by the various guerrilla fronts in the region on May 13-14 to impose its "no guns, no goons" policy.

May 7. A vehicle used by PROMDI Sangguniang Bayan (SB) bets in Tabuelan was set ablaze by a team of NPA Red fighters who put up a checkpoint in brgy. Mabunao, Tabuelan, Cebu. The burning was a necessary punitive measure after Tabuelan bets of PROMDI led by Mayor Rex Gerona refused to secure a "permit-to-campaign" from the people's democratic government.

The three candidates, whose vehicle was fired upon only after they ignored the NPA checkpoint, were well aware they were in the guerrilla territory of the NPA Vicente Padayao Command. Since they were only after the vehicle, the NPA fighters gave no chase when the local politicians fled.

OTHER VICTORIES IN ARMED STRUGGLE.....

Notorious counterrevolutionary element in Tuburan punished.

April 30. Red fighters of the NPA Vicente Padayao Command meted the death sentence against notorious armed cult leader Willy Castro in brgy. Lawaan, Danao City, Cebu. Since the late 80's, Castro sowed terror among the peasant masses of midnorthern Cebu as leader of the armed fanatical group "Putian." He was particularly responsible for the series of brutal salvaging of peasant activists in Tuburan in February

1991. Castro also aided the AFP's counterrevolutionary campaigns in February 1991 and August 1993 that led to the evacuation of hundreds of peasant families in Tuburan and Asturias towns.

Revolutionary justice meted out against PNP asset in Tabuelan.

June 6. A 6-man team of the NPA Vicente Padayao Command punished PNP asset Valentin Berenguel in brgy. Bongon, Tabuelan, Cebu for his blood debts to the revolutionary movement. Berenguel has long been active in counterrevolutionary surveillance, and in coercing suspected revolutionary elements and sympathizers in the locality. He also tipped the PNP on the whereabouts of Red fighters in the area which led to the ambush-slaying of Ka Anu/Jonrox/Rex last May 12.

Berenguel had repeatedly ignored NPA reminders for him to desist from his counterrevolutionary activities and surrender to the revolutionary movement. The masses welcomed the actions of the people's army in upholding revolutionary justice.

PNP intelligence officer in Calape punished.

March 16. A team of Red fighters belonging to the NPA Chocolate Hills Command imposed the death penalty to SPO3 Calixto Bayot in brgy. Poblacion, Calape, Bohol. The PNP intelligence officer has a long record of anti-people and ant-revolutionary activities since the late 80's. Among these is the brutal salvaging of two NDF cadres, as well as the constant surveillance of suspected NPA supporters in Calape and Tubigon towns.

Baranggay Captain in Anda meted out punishment.

March 25. The NPA Arnulfo Mendez Command imposed the death penalty to Rodrigo Jandayan, a military spy and brgy. Captain of Tanod, Anda, Bohol. Jandayan has consistently harassed peasants suspected of being NPA supporters in the locality. He incurred blood debts to the revolutionary movement when he gave information to the fascist 15th Scout Ranger Coy that led to the raid of an NPA encampment in brgy. Tanod last February 19. In that incident, Ka Simsi and three other Red fighters were martyred.



REGIONAL NEWS

Red fighters conduct punitive action on Smart cell site in midnorth Cebu.

April 21. A team of the NPA Arnulfo Ortiz Regional Operational Command bombed a cell site of telecom giant Smart Communications in brgy. Looc, Danao City for failing to comply with the revolutionary tax policy of the people's democratic government. The punitive action is part of a nationwide campaign to force the monopoly firm to settle its tax obligation to the people's democratic government.

Punitive action conducted against Japanese monopoly firm in Cebu City.

February 22. A special team of the NPA Arnulfo Ortiz Regional Operational Command fired at a vehicle carrying three engineers of Toa Construction in St. Jude Acres Subdivision in brgy. Bulacao, Cebu City. The punitive action was launched against the foreign monopoly firm for deliberately violating the people's democratic government's revolutionary tax policy. The Japanese company was also punished for implementing the patently anti-people Cebu South Coastal Road Project, which destroyed the environment and ejected, rendered unemployed and brought sickness to hundreds of fisherfolk families in Metro Cebu.

As a result, the implementation of the Cebu South Coastal Road Project and Cebu South Reclamation Project was suspended for four months.

POETRY



Fear not

In the far countryside
Scores of armed fighting reds
Young and old alike
Fear no battle nor death

Between mounds of choco hills
Only tall grasses cover
From enemies forever hunting
Yet they withstand, yet they endure

The masses widely surround
Like forest to hide on
Upon the sway of its arms
No enemy ever triumphs

Nay, the course might turn blue
The Long March never wanes
How far, how soon
Fear not to win!

Ka. Pipol
29 April 2001