



EDITORIAL:

Carry forward the people's war against the US-Marcos regime!

Read on page 2

NPA units mount series of successful tactical offensives (p. 2)

Communique of the NDFP Int'l Theoretical Conference on Economic Crises (p. 3)

Detained NDFP consultants welcome possible revival of peace talks (p. 4)

EDITORIAL:

Carry forward the people's war against the US-Marcos regime!

The broad masses of Filipinos rejoice the 55th anniversary of the New People's Army (NPA) as the beacon of hope for national liberation and democracy. The chronic crisis of the semi-colonial and semi-feudal society underscores the necessity and sustainability of armed struggle.

Over the past 55 years, the NPA has overcome the greatest difficulties and obstacles in waging people's war in the Philippines as an archipelagic country. It has succeeded in self-reliantly developing guerrilla warfare on a nationwide scale despite the disadvantage of having no physical rear. Guerilla fronts and consolidated rural bases with fairly strong units of the NPA were established in all the major islands of the country. These guerilla fronts have served as theaters for NPA units to wage guerrilla warfare. They create guerrilla zones and bases first in the less-populated mountainous terrain, where they could consolidate, train and plan to expand to the better-populated plains, riverine, main lines of transportation and coastal areas.

Starting with only 60 Red fighters armed with only nine automatic rifles and 26 inferior firearms in the second district of Tarlac province, the CPP (Communist Party of the Philippines) has succeeded in developing NPA forces from squads and platoons, to company-strength guerrilla forces. It created 14 regional commands of the NPA, each having reached a peak strength of a few hundred to more or less a thousand Red fighters, and each having a number of subregional or provincial commands with several guerrilla fronts.

The New People's Army has successfully frustrated the yearly declared targets of the enemy to crush the revolutionary armed movement. It surmounted the successive campaigns of encirclement and suppression and have, by and large, emerged stronger. The Party leadership estimated that the people's war reached the middle phase of the strategic defensive in and around the middle of the 2000s, and made plans to fulfill the requirements to reach the advanced phase, and onto the threshold of the strategic stalemate.

Red political power were established across thousands of villages across the country. The Party has built the rudimentary forms of the people's democratic government at the barrio or inter-barrio level, with officers elected in village assemblies or selected from local revolutionary mass organizations.

The US-Marcos regime is the current concentrated expression of the Filipino people's oppressor. It represents the moribund ruling system and the worst facets of the ruling exploiting classes. Its neoliberal economic policies, outright subservience to US geopolitical interests, corruption, high-style living, and fascist suppression of democratic rights are causing even greater suffering on the Filipino people and rousing them to fight for national democracy with even greater tenacity.

The Philippine national democratic revolution has had the distinction of having advanced with great strides and waging armed struggle in the current era of international retreat of the world proletariat. With the defeat of the socialist revolution and capitalist restoration in China and the Soviet Union under modern revisionist rule, the Filipino people had to wage and self-reliantly develop revolutionary armed struggle.

(continue to page 4...)

NPA units mount series of successful tactical offensives

The New People's Army (NPA) recently mounted a series of tactical offensives in different Philippine provinces. Red fighters of NPA-Quezon under the Apolonio Mendoza Command ambushed a 30-strong unit of the 85th IB in Doña Aurora, Calauag, Quezon, last 25 March. This is just a few days before the latest "deadline" (the end of March 2024), declared by the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) to defeat the units of the NPA in all the guerilla fronts.

Ka Cleo del Mundo, spokesperson of the NPA-Quezon, said the Red fighters blew up a command detonated explosive at the 85th IB, injuring three fascist soldiers, in the 10-minute battle. The NPA unit is safe.

Ka Cleo added, "The military action of the NPA is proof that the aim of Gen. Romeo Brawner of the AFP and its commander in chief Marcos to destroy the revolutionary movement is a pipe dream."

It can be recalled that Quezon was also declared by the AFP as "insurgency-free" in June 2023. To stand by their lie and cover up their failure, the 85th IB now falsely claims the attacking Red fighters were from Bicol.

In Rodriguez, Rizal, the NPA-Rizal ambushed troopers of the AFP's 80th IB on January 31. Apart from serving as guards of the Wawa-Violago dam project being built, the AFP unit also protects the interests of the ruling big land grabbers like the Aranetas, Villars and Robles.


The 80th IB is involved in multiple human rights violations including the illegal detention of indigenous people and peasants defending their right to livelihood. Since January 31, the 80th IB intensified and tightened surveillance on the residents' entry and exit in the community. Soldiers set up checkpoints and went door-to-door intimidating residents and subjecting them to illegal interrogations.



image: philippinerevolution.nu

In Prosperidad, Agusan del Sur, the NPA-Agusan del Sur mounted a harassment operation against the 3rd Special Forces Battalion of the AFP on 19 January.

According to the NPA-Agusan del Sur, the armed action is a response to the AFP's relentless focused military operation that covers the mountains bordering Agusan del Sur and Surigao del Sur. It added that military operations have disrupted the livelihood of the indigenous people and peasant masses since 2022. Clusters of communities are militarized by the AFP to allow and protect large logging and mining companies in the Caraga region.

In Baleno, Masbate, a unit of the NPA-Masbate hit the 96th IB on January 13. According to Ka Luz del Mar, spokesperson of NPA-Mabaste, the armed offensive is part of their efforts to obtain justice for the victims of military abuses and defend the people against the ongoing military rule in the province. These include the 24 victims of political killings in Masbate under the US-Marcos regime. Residents are also very indignant at the persistent encampment of counter-insurgency units of the AFP and the Philippine National Police in the town. 

Communique of the NDFP Int'l Theoretical Conference on Economic Crises of Imperialism

The International Theoretical Conference on Economic Crises of Imperialism organized by the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) was held from 28 to 29 March 2024 in Amsterdam, the Netherlands. The conference gathered 98 delegates and representatives from different proletarian-socialist, anti-imperialist, and democratic parties from 18 countries across the world.

The theoretical conference discussed the current character and patterns of economic crises generated by imperialism and intensifying inter-imperialist rivalry. Conference delegates explored the three main topics of 1) capitalist overproduction; 2) financial oligarchies and trade wars; and 3) the planetary crisis caused by imperialist greed and superprofit.

The keynote speech "*Imperialist economic crises show moribund system is ripe for socialist revolution*" presented by the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) clarified the distinct stages of imperialist crisis leading to the current period of prolonged economic stagnation and its impacts on the people. Drawing from the writings of Marx, Engels, Lenin, and Mao, the Communist Party of India (Maoist) explained how current economic conditions are ripe for the resurgence of proletarian revolutionary struggle.

The proceedings centered on 17 papers and speeches presented by representatives of communist parties, national liberation movements, and political formations from Australia, Belgium, Canada, India, Italy, Kurdistan, the Philippines, Turkey, and the United States as well as anti-imperialist organizations representing women, migrants, agricultural workers, urban poor, and scientists.



The two-day conference culminated with the celebration of the 55th founding anniversary of the New People's Army. The event celebrated the victories of the NPA to continuously thwart the enemy's war of annihilation and extolled the heroism of Red fighters and commanders in the face of intensifying attacks. 



image: philippinerevolution.nu

(Continued from page 2..)

The situation of rising inter-imperialist rivalries is rousing the Filipino people to defend the country's freedom and demand the imperialist giants – both the US and China – to end their saber-rattling and withdraw their troops from the country's territory. So far, the anti-imperialist revolutionary armed struggle of the Filipino people is the biggest factor preventing an inter-imperialist war from erupting in the region. To the US imperialists, the NPA is a critical impediment that prevents it from fully using the country as springboard for aggression and using the AFP as pawn in its scheme of stoking military tensions in the South China Sea and dragging the country into a conflict with China in line with its geopolitical interests. 

Detained NDFP consultants welcome possible revival of peace talks



image: philippinerevolution.nu

Two peace consultants of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) who are detained in the Metro Manila District Jail – Annex 4, Camp Bagong Diwa, Upper Bicutan, Taguig City, Philippines, welcomed the possibility of resuming the stalled peace negotiations between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines (GRP) and the NDFP.

The interview, conducted by Bulatlat.com, sought the opinions of political prisoners and NDFP peace consultants Vicente Ladlad and Adelberto Silva.

Both Ladlad and Silva welcomed the report that the stalled peace negotiations were going to be revived, and expressed hopes that as peace consultants, they would be able to join the talks.

“It is good that they, the GRP, decided to elevate peace talks to the national level once again and reverse former president Rodrigo Duterte’s policy of so-called localized peace talks”, Ladlad said.

Since the termination of peace negotiations by former president Duterte in 2017, the GRP stand on peace talks has been not to negotiate on the national level, but only to hold localized peace talks.

To clarify this, Ladlad explained that no local groups of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), the New People’s Army (NPA), nor the NDFP, is authorized to hold localized peace talks with members of the GRP. He explained that it is only the NDFP Peace Negotiating Panel that is authorized to negotiate with the Manila government.

Ladlad, who has been a peace consultant of the NDFP Negotiating Panel for many years noted that Duterte was of the mistaken belief that the GRP shall have eliminated the NPA by the end of his term in June 2022. “Apparently, they realized that under Marcos Jr, the CPP, NPA and NDFP is still a viable force. That is why they are going back to negotiating with the NDFP”, Ladlad added.

He also remarked that one of the hurdles in efforts to revive peace talks is the open opposition to the talks of Vice President Sara Duterte. She had earlier remarked that efforts to revive the negotiations was “an agreement with the devil”.

Such a remark, commented Ladlad, was “very hostile and belligerent to her president, Marcos, Jr.”

Adelberto Silva noted that another hurdle to the success of the peace negotiations is the insistence of officials of the Marcos Jr. cabinet to do away with previously signed agreements such as The Hague Joint Declaration and the Joint Safety and Immunity Guarantees (JASIG).

“The Hague Joint Declaration should remain as the framework of the negotiations as it had already been signed and reaffirmed by both parties numerous times” Silva remarked.

“The GRP must also guarantee the safety of the consultants the NDFP wishes to join in the revived peace talks under the JASIG” he said.

Both consultants said that the negotiations are not just about ending the armed conflict but addressing its root causes. “Otherwise, that’s just surrender talks”, they said. 