

## Offensives escalate in the entire archipelago

FROM NORTHERN Luzon to Western Mindanao, units of the New People's Army (NPA) launched consecutive tactical offensives against state forces. This is in response to the Communist Party of the Philippines' call to intensify the people's war against the Duterte regime's all-out war and martial law.

**Bukidnon.** Last July 4, members of the NPA-North Central Mindanao Region (NCOM) launched harassment operations against 24 troopers of the 8th IB in Sitio Kalakapan, Barangay Kanangaan, Cabanglasan. One was killed and two more were wounded among the military troopers.

The following day, on July 5, the Red fighters foiled an attack on an NPA camp by a unit from the 8th IB and the Special Forces under the 403rd IBde in Sitio Miraray, Barangay Manggaod of the same town. Three AFP soldiers were killed in the blast of a command-detonated explosive.

Meanwhile, members of the NPA-NCOM Front 6 ambushed elements of the 8th IB in Barangay Dao, San Fernando last July 13.

Killed in the ambush were Joas Licawan and Rolan Lumatay, while wounded was Pvt. Benjamin "Nonong" Salusad, all members of a paramilitary group.

On July 14, another platoon

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EDITORIAL

## Firmly oppose the extension of martial law

**T**he entire Filipino people and all revolutionary forces must unite in order to resist with all-out energy the plan of the Duterte regime to extend martial law in Mindanao to the end of the year.

Martial law extension will surely result in worse military and police abuses.

It will prolong the people's sufferings under restrictions against civil and political freedom and aggravate violations of their democratic rights.

It will further worsen the suppression of information regarding widespread violations of human rights in order to perpetuate the martial law narrative to favor the AFP, Duterte and the US. The truth surrounding the siege of Marawi

City, especially the real reasons, the number of civilians and AFP soldiers killed and the extent of the armed resistance, is being concealed by the AFP spokesperson's layer upon layer of tall tales.

Duterte continues to build the foundations of dictatorial rule under US imperialist tutelage. His supermajority of congressional sycophants are likely to approve without question Duterte's Mindanao martial law extension plan. They are drooling over the benefits that will accrue to them from the big-ticket projects

which Duterte aims to railroad under martial law.

Duterte wants to extend martial law in the vain hope of completing the suppression of the armed resistance in Marawi City. He has launched a war which he cannot finish. The Duterte-US-AFP war has roused the Moro people to take up arms to seek retribution for all the death and destruction perpetrated by the fascist siege and incessant aerial bombardment of Marawi City. "Enough!" is the clamor of the people of Marawi in order that they could return to their homes.

Duterte has submitted the revamped draft of the Bangsamoro Basic Law as an urgent bill in congress with the vain hope of pacifying the Moro people. Contrary to

Duterte's wish, an enactment of the BBL and his empty declaration of "forming a new country under the constitution" of will only lead to a renewed war to genuinely advance their right for self-determination. A conflagration of Moro armed resistance is bound to flare up across the Bangsamoro.

Martial law in Mindanao also aims to continue and intensify

Duterte's all-out war against the New People's Army (NPA). Over the past two months under martial law, AFP armed offensives against the NPA and its suspected mass base have been relentless. Aerial bombings and shelling have been carried out in North Cotabato, Bukidnon, Davao del Sur, Davao City,

Davao del Norte, Compostela Valley and elsewhere. Workers rights have been suppressed. Picket lines have been dismantled. Attacks against and occupation of civilian communities have stepped up. Paramilitaries have been emboldened by martial law and are subjecting the Lumad people to threats and harassments. Across Mindanao, at least 10,000 people have been forced to evacuate in less than two months in addition to the 410,000 evacuees from Marawi and nearby towns.

Duterte's martial law, in Mindanao or nationwide, is an outright assault against every Filipino's rights and freedom. Under its camouflage, US military forces are carrying out outright intervention through electronic surveillance and use of attack drones especially at night. Duterte also plans to quickly set up his entire fascist machinery for suppression. This includes the plan to implement a national ID system, which can be weaponized to restrict the people's rights to free movement and as a tool for mass surveillance. With Mindanao martial law extension and threat of expansion, Duterte can exercise the power to railroad his tax reform plan and other economic policies to the detriment of the people's rights and interests.

Thus, it is imperative for the entire Filipino people to vigorously oppose the plan of extending and possibly expanding Duterte's martial law in Mindanao. The people are firmly united and ever determined to resist Duterte's plans.

The New People's Army must continue to strengthen itself nationwide. New Red fighters must be rapidly recruited. The NPA must seize the initiative in carrying out tactical offensives and counteractions across the country to defeat martial law in Mindanao and the nationwide all-out war.



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belonging to the 8th IB conducting Civil Military Operations was harassed by a unit of the Front 6 in Barangay Mahayag, Quezon, Bukidnon. Two soldiers were killed, while an NPA fighter was martyred.

**North Cotabato.** The NPA-SMR Regional Operations Command reported that an unmarked and heavily tinted van was flagged down at a checkpoint put up by the 1st Pulang Bagani Company (PBC) on July 19 along the Davao-Cotabato-Bukidnon highway in Barangay Katipunan, Arakan.

The checkpoint was part of the NPA's response to the CPP's call to fight martial law in Mindanao.

The vehicle's driver introduced himself as an AFP soldier. Upon realizing that the checkpoint was not manned by AFP troopers, he immediately drew his gun and stepped on the gas. The Red fighters were compelled to fire at the vehicle in order to immobilize it. At this point, a second vehicle of the convoy arrived and fired at the NPA unit. The vehicle managed to go past the checkpoint but was also met with fire by another NPA platoon before speeding away. The NPA unit later learned that the passengers of both vans were elements of the Presidential Security Group.

Upon receiving orders, the NPA withdrew from the area. Before this, Rogelio Magno, an agent belonging to the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group-Bukidnon, was arrested by the NPA. He is currently under the custody of the Red army for investigation.

**Compostela Valley.** On July 11, Red fighters arrested PO1 Alfredo Sillada Basabica, Jr. at a checkpoint put up by the NPA-Comval-Davao East Coast Subregional Operations Command at Km. 26, Barangay Panansalan, Compostela Valley. PO1 Pasabeca is currently being in-

vestigated for possible crimes against the people and the revolutionary movement. Pasabeca is detailed at the Cateel Municipal Police Substation in Barangay Aliwagwag, Compostela Valley. This unit is employed by the local reactionary government in its anti-peasant and anti-Lumad projects. He is also being investigated for the proliferation of illegal drug sale in Cateel, the torture of five farmers illegally arrested last March and May, and spying on civilians.

Two police officers are currently under the custody of Red fighters.

Meanwhile, the 1st PBC raided the residence of a businessman and known military intelligence agent at Riverside, Talomo, Calinan District, Davao City last July 7. A carbine was confiscated from the operation.

**Zamboanga.** On July 16, the NPA-Zamboanga Peninsula Regional Operations Command ambushed a unit of the 44th IB in Purok Biwa, Barangay Titik 1, Leon Postigo, Zamboanga del Norte. The firefight lasted for one and a half hours until enemy reinforcements from barangays Bukana and Titik 2 arrived. One was killed while seven were wounded on the part of the military. Five Red fighters were wounded. A civilian was killed in the exchange of gunfire.

On the same day, another NPA

platoon ambushed troops belonging to the 42nd IB aboard a KM450 truck on the way to reinforce the AFP unit ambushed earlier that morning. Ten were killed while three more were wounded among the AFP. Meanwhile, one NPA was wounded. Ka Masaw, a Red fighter, was killed in action.

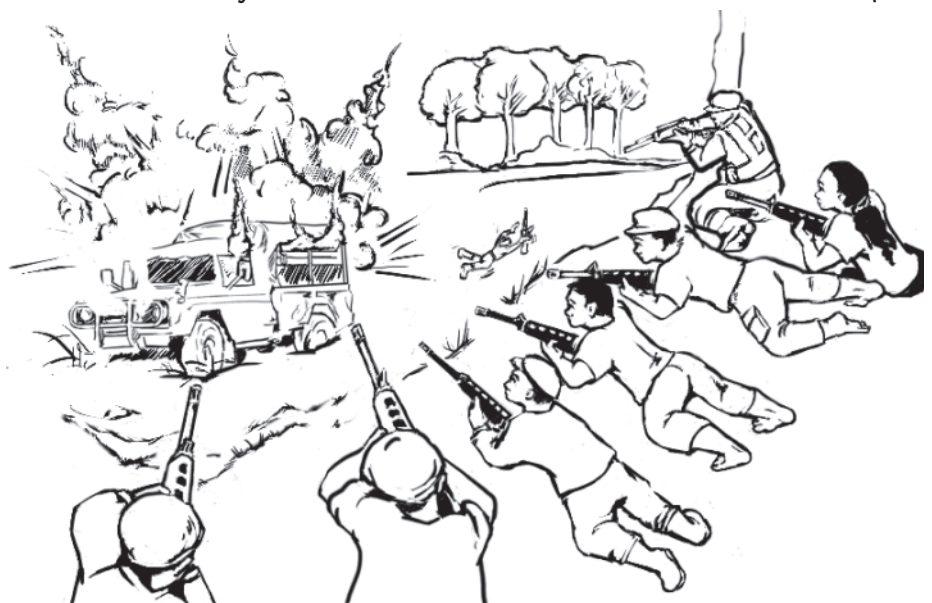
**Surigao del Sur.** A unit of the NPA-Northeastern Mindanao Region raided the residence of Cortes Vice Mayor Emmanuel Suarez in Barangay Mabahid last July 18. Four firearms were confiscated from him. The NPA warned Suarez to stop the widespread illegal logging and fishing in the town of Cortes.

**Samar.** Red fighters of NPA-Samar harassed two columns of the 14th IB last July 7 at 7:30 a.m. in Barangay Salvacion, Canavid, Eastern Samar. Three soldiers were killed.

**Negros.** The Roselyn Pelle Command of the NPA-Negros meted out punishment to the RPA-ABB leader Charlie Boliboli in Salvador Benedicto, Negros Occidental.

Boliboli is involved in a series of crimes against the people including murder, landgrabbing and violence against peasants in Barangay Bago, Salvador Benedicto.

According to Ka Cecil Estrella, spokesperson of the Roselyn Pelle Command, Boliboli is active in plot-



ting counter-revolutionary activities and serves as a guide during military operations.

**Camarines Sur.** A 30-minute firefight broke out between the NPA-Camarines Sur (Norben Gruta Command) and elements of the 9th ID in Barangay Salvacion, Ragay, Camarines Sur last July 19, where an AFP trooper was killed.

As early as July 18, NPA units had monitored three AFP columns in barangays Baya, Napolidan and Cawayan. The following day, a unit of the 9th IB's Alpha Coy entered Barangay Salvacion from Barangay Baya.

**Kalinga.** One was killed while five 50th IB troopers were wounded in an encounter with the NPA-Kalinga (Lejo Cawilan Command) last July 4 in Batong Buhay, Barangay Balatoc, Pasil.

According to the NPA-Kalinga, AFP troops have long been conducting combat operations in the villages of Balatoc and Colayo, bringing great fear and disrupting the lives of the residents. They encamp amid homes, at the barangay hall and school at Barangay Colayo. They likewise conduct forcible recruitment for the CAFGU in Barangay Balatoc.

Meanwhile, last July 14, the NPA-Cagayan set off a command-detonated explosive against a PNP patrol car in Barangay Diduyon, Maddela, Cagayan. Five policemen and a civilian were wounded.

**Palawan.** On July 18, a unit of the NPA-South Palawan (Bienvenido Valleber Command) blasted an M35 truck of the 4th Marine Battalion Landing Team in Barangay Tarusan, Bataraza, Palawan. One 4th MBLT trooper was wounded. Meanwhile, the NPA-North Palawan punished two abusive Marines in Barangay Magara, Roxas, Palawan. AB

## APC in the time of martial law

In the past three months, around 200 Party members and Red fighters successfully finished the Advanced Party Course (APC) in Mindanao. Duterte's martial law failed to hamper the Party's resolve to hold formal courses to raise its membership's Marxist-Leninist-Maoist consciousness. This is part of the all-round advance of the revolutionary movement in the island.

In June, two batches were almost simultaneously launched in two regions. The North Central Mindanao Region (NCOM) launched its first batch. The course opened with a program where the students showcased their cultural talents. In the course of the study, students actively shared their experiences and what they understood in the theoretical studies. The region's summing-up paper was enriched through collective studies, particularly of bureaucratism. The instructors enlivened their presentations with visuals and stories which amused the students. For those who arrived late, their fellow students organized make-up classes for them to catch up.

Forty two students and eight reviewees finished the course. Their studies closed with a program with the students receiving their diplomas and giving individual assessments, as well as cultural presentations. The steering committee sang the song *Pakunotay sa Agtang* (Think Hard) and an ACP ditty composed in 2015. A group presented a dance number to the tune of *Muog na Buo* (Solid Fortress). The instructors and hosts gave inspiring messages. Everyone welcomed the announcement that they will be taking with them a Bisaya translation of Jose Maria Sison's *Primer on Marxism-Leninism*.

In the Southern Mindanao Region (SMR), 36 students were gathered for another batch. An 18-person core of instructors who were students from the previous batches

was assembled. Within the span of 15 days, the instructors collectively endeavored to carry out the 5-part course with the aid of colorful and creative presentations.

From philosophy to socialist construction, the instructors and students learned from each other. The students were a mix of petit-bourgeois elements who completed higher college courses, workers, as well as peasants who had no formal schooling and learned to read and write inside the revolutionary movement. There were lively sharing of experiences, debates and discussions touching on the students' experiences, with empiricism and its various forms in their fields as one of the specific topics.

Between lectures, news sharing, video showing and snacks were regular features. Before nightfall, students would assemble into groups made up of a mix of "peti-bs," workers and peasants to assess the lectures and prepare for the next day. Questions that were missed are reposed, lessons are summed-up by the group tasked to do a recap for the next day, and students share what they understand of the lectures.

ACP will be easier to launch now that there are more instructors. The Party hopes that the ACP target for all cadres and Red fighters to the subregional level will be reached within the year not only in Mindanao but also in the entire country.

The knowledge imparted in formal Party courses will serve as a weapon not only in advancing the people's war, but also in meeting challenges after its victory. AB

## Tindeg Ranao opposes Duterte's Martial Law

MORE THAN 100 victims of forcible evacuation by the AFP's indiscriminate bombings in Marawi and Martial law declaration in Mindanao gathered in Iligan City last July 18 to organize Tindeg Ranao. They opposed aerial bombings, demanded the lifting of martial law, and justice for all the victims of martial law and comprehensive rehabilitation in Marawi City.

Majority of the delegates came from different evacuation centers in Iligan City, Lanao del Norte and Lanao del Sur, areas which were covered by the National Interfaith Humanitarian Mission led by Kalinaw Mindanao last June.

Jerome Succor Aba, chairperson of Suara Bangsamoro and Ms. Aida Ibrahim of Kalinaw Mindanao-Northern Mindanao Region also expressed solidarity to

the activity. Both discussed the situation of Moro people under Duterte administration and the conditions of evacuees in Lanao communities.

Victims expressed their demand for speedy return to their homes. The group also called for a thorough and independent investigation on the Marawi siege which led to the destruction of the city and worsening humanitarian crisis.

Almost 410,000 individuals are now affected by the ongoing siege by Duterte in Marawi. As a result, hundreds are dead, while few are wounded due to bombings.

Last July 19, Dansalan Tano sa Kalilintad was also formed, an alliance of *ulamas* (preachers), professionals and various sectors in Marawi.

First among its activities is the series of consultations among evacuees. The group will also hold a dialogue with AFP officers, local officials and ARMM. The alliance plans to hold a "Peace March to Marawi" on Duterte's SONA, July 24. AB

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## Activities before the SONA 2017

A series of actions was launched by different sectors as build-up for GRP Pres. Rodrigo Duterte's second State of the Nation Address on July 24. The sectors raised their respective issues, alongside calls to lift martial law.

**Workers' #KampObrero.** The Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU) and All Workers Unity set up a workers' camp called the #KampObrero in front of the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) office in Intramuros, Manila that will remain from July 10 until Duterte's SONA.

More than 100 workers participated in the camp, including miners from Caraga, and agricultural workers of the Freshmax Fruit Corp. and Shin Sun Tropical Fruit Corp. from Compostela Valley.

According to Jacinto Tanduyan, KMU-Caraga secretary general, attacks against workers' rights and contractualization have intensified in the mining sector under martial law. Majority of them were illegally fired by Redfive, a gold mining company in Caraga. The workers belied the declaration of the DOLE that 70,000 workers have already

been regularized in the Duterte regime's first year.

According to KMU report, in the mining industry alone, 90% of workers are contractual. In the Hinatuan Mining Corporation, DOLE-Caraga declared that 1,827 workers have been regularized but only 89 workers have been directly employed by the company while the majority are from labor-contracting agencies.

On the camp's second day, July 11, they were met by DOLE Sec. Silvestre Bello and Usec. Joel Maglunsod. They were able to assert the holding of a dialogue with the management of Redfive on July 18 to hear the cases of illegal dismissal and union-busting.

On July 17, the workers transferred their camp to Mendiola near Malacanang in Manila.

**Peasants' call: "Magtagumpay!"** In time with its 32nd anniversary, the Kilusang Magbubukid

ng Pilipinas (KMP) launched its 8th national congress at the Ibalong Centrum for Recreation in Legazpi, Albay on July 12-13. The participants reached almost 2,000 from 67 KMP chapters in 15 regions nationwide. The congress was held amid the surging local peasant struggles in the whole country. The activity primarily called for genuine land reform and free distribution of land. The KMP demanded the return of the P75 billion coco levy fund to small coconut planters.

Their theme 'Magtagumpay' (Be victorious) serves as response to the Duterte regime's violent moves that desperately seek to retain the country's pro-imperialist economy and semifeudal order. The eviction of peasants heralds a new wave of land grabbing by foreign interests. On July 14, thousands of delegates held a short program at the Pinaglabanan Shrine in Legazpi City and marched to the Philippine Coconut Authority office in Albay to call for the return of the coco levy funds to the farmers.

**Drivers' rally against corporatization.** Some 4,000 drivers and operators joined PISTON's



and No to Jeepney Phase Out Coalition's caravan on July 18. The drivers strongly condemned the planned phaseout of jeepneys to benefit the interests of a few monopoly capitalists.

Similar protests were held in Baguio, Isabela, Bulacan, Metro Manila, Laguna, Bicol, Capiz, Iloilo, Cebu and Davao.

Meanwhile, workers of Keyrin Electronics Philippines Inc. thwarted company's efforts to smuggle out machines and other equipment on July 16. Workers put up barricades inside and outside the factory. In the face of the PEZA-Cavite's and CALABARZON DOLE officials' intervention, the workers stood squarely for their rights.

AB

## Land monopoly of commercial plantations

**A**s large tracts of land fall under the hacienda system, large portions of agricultural lands in the country are also covered by commercial plantations. Most of these are in Mindanao, where almost half a million hectares or 12% of the island's agricultural land are utilized by these plantations.

Most of these are rubber plantations (43%), followed by plantations of sugarcane (19%), Cavendish bananas (17%), pineapples (10%), oil palm (9%) and cacao (2%). Of the national yield, almost 100% of these products except sugar and oil palm are harvested in Mindanao. Some oil palm plantations are in Palawan (8.4% of the national output) and Bohol (12%) while majority of sugar plantations are under the hacienda system in Central Luzon and Negros.

From the beginning, corporate agricultural monopolies dominated commercial plantation operations in the country. American company Del Monte established its plantations for export in the 1920s while Dole established theirs in 1960. Using unequal trade agreements, these companies tied local agricultural production to the US market. In 1920-1939, for example, Philippine exports to the US grew from 50% to 79%. Meanwhile, US imports to the Philippines grew by 65%.

In the successive decades, other foreign monopoly capitalists arrived at the scene and partnered with the puppet state and local landlords. Aside from Dole and Del Monte, large tracts of land are now under control of Japanese company Sumifru and Italian company Unifruitti in producing bananas and pineapples. Japanese companies like Yokohama and US company Dunlop control rubber plantations.

Oil palm plantations are owned by Filipino-Malaysian companies while cacao plantations have links to American companies like Mars Inc. and Nestle.

These companies expanded their plantations through land grabbing, forest denudation and violence. They partnered with the puppet state which passed laws facilitating the eviction of farmers and minorities from the lands these companies wanted to exploit. Central among these is the fake land reform law which entrapped beneficiaries in anomalous contract growing or agricultural ventures agreements (AVA). Under such contracts, multinational companies "rent" land from the farmers for up to 25 years for as low as P166/month per hectare. In growing bananas, beneficiaries are tied to contracts where their produce is bought at very low prices, such as \$2.50 or P125 per 13-kilo box.

In exchange for their land, these companies employ selected beneficiaries as contractuels and pay them less than the minimum wage. In the island, the lowest wage is P235/day in Zamboanga Peninsula while the highest is P306/day in Region XI. This is despite the fact that minimum wages in the Zamboanga Peninsula is set at P283/day and P335/day in Region XI. Living



wages are already pegged at more than P1,000 nationwide. To make up for their family's needs, all family members frequently work together in plantations, including children. In oil palm plantations, one of every four workers is below 18.

### Expansion in the coming years

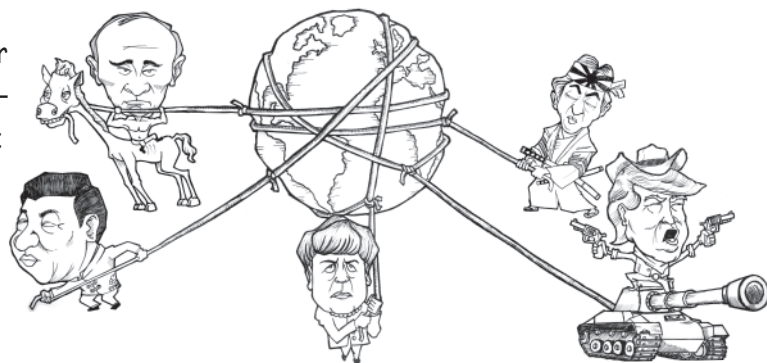
Through arrangements such as "managed farms" and contract growing agreements with cooperatives or individual farmers, commercial plantation operations are set to expand further. In the past decade alone, these expanded by 80%. Rubber plantations tripled (from 81,667 hectares in 2005 to 214,315 hectares in 2014) and oil palm plantations doubled (from 23,478 hectares to 42,731 hectares for the same period).

These plantations are set to expand further in the next years. In 2014, Dole Philippines announced its plan to add 12,000 hectares to its plantations. This month, it inaugurated a new can-

*"Plantations..." continued on page 7*

# G20 in Germany: The world's economic and political crises revealed

Protests of more than 100,000 people from all over Europe as well as other parts of the globe confronted the annual summit of the Group of 20 (G20) last July 7-8 in Hamburg, Germany. Calls of "NO G20," "Capitalism Kills" and "Make Capitalism History" were highlighted in censuring the economic system embodied by the G20.



The G20 consists of the major imperialist nations and so-called emerging economies within their influence and is set up to unite in resolving the crisis confronting capitalism. Since its establishment after

the 1999 Asian financial crisis, and most especially after the global financial crisis of 2008, the G20's core tasks have been to secure financial stability, reignite capitalist growth and pre-

vent the slide to "protectionism" among capitalist economies.

But despite its annual summits, the G20 is far from resolving the

"G20..." continued on page 8

"Plantations..." continued from page 6

ning plant in South Cotabato in the midst of a new 3,000-hectare plantation. In 2015, Unifrutti also established a new 2,600-hectare banana plantation in Maguindanao. Sugar plantations are set to expand by 256,360 hectares. The largest planned expansion is by 900,000 hectares for oil palm plantations in Mindanao alone.

Except for oil palm, production from these plantations is geared for markets abroad. Cavendish bananas are exported to China, Japan, Korea, Middle East and New Zealand. Such is also the case for pineapples, cacao and others. A small part of oil palm production (15%) is allotted for local consumption. Although there are already large oil palm plantations in Mindanao, the country still imports most of its oil palm needs since local harvest is geared to German, Malaysian and Indian markets.

Plantations, therefore, continue to serve foreign companies and foreign markets. These have no significant benefits to the people, except for precarious employment. Instead, they have brought widespread dislocation, environmental degradation and hunger. AB

## Oil palm plantation expansion

### Grabbing ancestral lands

ONE OF THE worst plans the Duterte regime is continuing from the previous US-Aquino regime is the expansion of oil palm plantations. Its 2014-2023 blueprint identified the potential for this expansion for up to a million hectares, the largest of which is in Caraga (384,000 hectares or 39%), next in Northern Mindanao (16%), SOCSKSARGEN (11.5%), Western Mindanao, Southern Mindanao and in ARMM (all at 10%). It also identified five towns in Palawan as favorable for expansion.

Most of these areas are ancestral lands of Lumads, Moros and Palawans. In Agusan del Sur, the expansion will cover 43 barangays in eight towns under 11 Certificate of Ancestral Domain Titles (CADT). This is also the case in Agusan del Norte and Surigao del Sur.

Potential plantations will also cover large tracts of Moro ancestral lands in ARMM. This year, the regional government has approved the plan of Gintong Ani Corporation (GAC), a Filipino-Malaysian company, to establish a 5,000-hectare plantation in Datu Odin Sinsuat, Maguindanao. The GAC plans to put up a 20,000-hectare plantation in the entire province this year.

In Lanao del Sur, oil palm plantations were established in 2004 but due to the residents' protests, the Malaysian company (Tabung Haji) was forced to withdraw from the 1,000-hectare thriving plantation. Plantation expansion is one of the reasons why some clans in Lanao del Sur oppose the Bangsamoro Basic Law as they see it as selling their ancestral land to foreigners.

The first oil palm plantations were established in the island of Basilan by the Menzi company. They expanded in Sultan Kudarat and Agusan del Sur in the succeeding decades. By 2012, there were already oil palm plantations in nine other provinces (Palawan, Bohol, Zamboanga Sur at Norte, Surigao Sur, Agusan del Norte, Bukidnon, Misamis Oriental, and Maguindanao). The plantations are mainly in Caraga (20,040 hectares) and SOCSKSARGEN (17,241 hectares). AB

crisis. In the recently concluded summit in Hamburg, disagreements among the countries remained regarding “free trade.” The US accused China and other European countries of dumping steel at cheap prices, and threatened to impose high tariffs (amounting to as much as 266%) on these, a measure considered as “protectionism” by its rival countries. However, a study revealed that more than 1,880 economic policies by the other G20 countries exist to safeguard the interests of their own monopoly-capitalists.

According to Prof. Jose Maria Sison, chairperson of the International League of Peoples’ Struggle, monetary policies adopted by the G20 only succeeded in creating new speculative capital flow and credit booms in imperialist as well as underdeveloped countries. Growth in all the advanced capitalist economies has barely exceeded 2% per year since 2010.

Total global debt has reached a record-high of \$217 trillion in the first quarter of 2017. Around \$20 trillion of this is owed by the US, while China’s debt is rising the fastest (estimated at more than \$25 trillion), Brazil (\$3.6 trillion) and India (\$2.9 trillion). Come end of this year, around \$2 trillion debt will mature (which, according to Prof. Sison, creates the conditions for a new financial convulsion that will be worse than 2008-09).

The colossal banks have profited the most. The four biggest US banks became 30% larger by 2013 than they had been before the crisis. Likewise, China’s four biggest banks grew from 0.4% to 1.9% in profits last 2016.

On the other hand, the rank of the unemployed is expected to exceed 200 million this year according to conservative estimates of the International Labor Organization. Of those with jobs, more than 1.4 bil-

lion people all over the globe are now in precarious kinds of work. This number grows by 11 million each year.

Sison likewise shared that more than 1.6 billion of the world’s peoples, including those in the advanced capitalist countries, are denied health and education services, and adequate standards of living. This is made worse by cutbacks in social spending while military expenditure is jacked up, and taxes are reduced for the finance oligarchy.

As in the previous summits, the G20 responded to the protests with fascism. In Germany, protests started days before the arrival of G20 leaders. Among those who joined the protests were students, workers and even lawyers. One protester said, “We know that the people who cause the misery that we have all over the world today—refugees, wars, and so on— they are sitting right now in the G20 and are having a chat.”

In the days towards the G20 summit, the protesters were violently suppressed by the police. The authorities likewise employed the Special Forces, armed with high powered firearms, in quelling the protests. Protesters were fired at with tear gas and water cannons, and their barricades bulldozed by armoured personnel carriers. The rallyists defended themselves with Molotov bombs and firecrackers against the police in the streets and in helicopters. More than 30 journalists were also banned from the G20 summit.

### **Contradictions within the G20**

Meanwhile, contradictions among imperialist powers surfaced in the G20. A few months before the summit, German Chancellor Merkel was quoted as saying that, “The times when we could fully rely on others are to some extent over. We

Europeans must really take our destiny into our own hands.” This is Germany’s response to the US’ protectionist measures like imposing high taxes on imported steel from China, South Korea and Europe, and US’ insistence on coal mining contrary to the Paris agreement on climate change.

Germany also disliked the US’ refusal to reaffirm a commitment to Article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), which compels member states to come to each other’s assistance when attacked. Instead, the US badgered its other NATO allies to fulfil their obligation to allocate 2% of their Gross Domestic Product for defense spending.

In Sison’s observation, this prompts Germany and other European powers to cozy up more to China. At present, Germany receives the largest foreign direct investment from China. More than \$12 billion worth of contracts were sealed between the two countries in 2016. Germany has also designated five of its railway systems to be part of China’s One Belt, One Road Initiative which aims to establish economic enclaves in the EuroAsia region, both on land and at sea. Germany and China are also the major countries teaming up in capitalizing in Africa.

Likewise, Germany and Austria assailed new economic sanctions which the US intends to impose on Russia and some EU countries resulting from the construction of a new gas pipeline between Russia and Germany. France, The Netherlands and UK are also co-investors in the Nord Stream 2 gas line project which will supply natural gas from Russia to Western Europe.

In responding to the competition, the US guaranteed the supply of liquefied natural gas to 12 countries belonging to the Three Seas Initiative led by Poland. These countries in



Central and Eastern Europe intend to break away from Russia's control in the latter's monopoly of natural gas in the region.

In the security aspect, there is a growing public sentiment in Germany to forge a military alliance with Russia, alongside diminishing support for an armed action by Germany against Russia. No less than Germany's leader Angela Merkel said that "we want to include Russia as an international actor in the solution of many conflicts."

Coinciding with the G20 summit, defense secretaries of the US and the UK held a meeting to discuss ways NATO could improve its combat power and deter Russian aggression in Eastern Europe. In a statement released after the meeting, the US Department of Defense said that "US and UK leaders still view Russia as a severe military threat."

Following this, the NATO conducted two separate war games last July 11-20 in the Black Sea, near Russia's borders. Participating in the war exercises are a total of 30,000 NATO troops, as well as missile destroyers, fighter jets, and amphibious Marines forces. For their part, Russia and China are also conducting joint naval exercises this July in the Baltic region.

Prof. Sison said that underlying the increasing inter-imperialist conflicts and realignments is the intensifying general crisis of monopoly capitalism and the increasing desperation of US imperialism to retain its primacy and the US-led world order it has secured since the end of World War 2.

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## The October Revolution 1917 government

The October Revolution took place and triumphed amid the First World War's rampage throughout Europe and the people's rising discontent to the hardships imposed by Russia's involvement in the war. The Communist Party of Russia resolved to wage the war against the ruling class of their own country instead of supporting the imperialist war, and launched the uprising. (See *Ang Bayan*, November 7, 2016.)



The Second All-Russian Congress of Soviets opened in Smolny, Petrograd, at 10:45 in the evening of October 25 (November 7 in the present calendar), 1917, at the height of the Petrograd uprising and political power in the capital had actually passed into the hands of the Petrograd Soviet. The congress declared that all state power had already passed into the hands of the Soviets.

In the evening of October 26, several hours after the declaration of victory, the Second All-Russian Congress of Soviets immediately passed the Decree on Peace that called on all warring countries to conclude an immediate armistice for a period of not less than three months to permit negotiations for peace. It also called on the class-conscious workers of the three most advanced nations and the largest states to aid the cause of peace while at the same time advancing the cause of the toiling masses for emancipation from all forms of slavery and exploitation.

That same night, the Second Congress of Soviets approved the Decree on Land, which confiscated landlord holdings. As recognition of the peasant's voice, the Bolshevik government adopted in full up to the last word the *Nakaz* (mandate) of the peasants. The *Nakaz* was compiled from 242 mandates of peasants of various localities. More than 162,000,000 hectares of land was

passed on for peasants to till. All mineral resources—oil, carbon and ore—became the property of the people.

The Second All-Russian Congress of Soviets elected the Soviet government—the Council of the People's Commissars—to supervise and administer socialist revolution and construction. It was assigned the tasks to: prevent the bourgeoisie's efforts to return to power, draw the majority of peasants into the side of the workers, organize wide scale production of machinery using factories seized from the bourgeoisie, and organize socialism from the ruins of capitalism. This was the dictatorship of the proletariat, or dictatorship of the majority of toiling masses against the few bourgeoisie and landlord class that previously enslaved them.

Ministers of the bourgeois government were removed and replaced by the appropriate People's Commissariats. Poor peasant committees were organized to lead in consolidating Red political power in the countryside, and later absorbed into the established Soviets.

Four days since victory, the eight-hour workday was legislated. Thus, Russia became the first country in the world to legislate this. After a week, the law on social security was passed and later expanded until it included all workers regarding disabilities, old-age pensions, allowances for mothers

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# Human rights violations escalate

Violations of human rights under the Duterte regime have worsened according to reports from different regions.

## Massive forced evacuations



Almost half a million people have been displaced from their communities under Duterte's reign. This is primarily induced by massive bombings and attacks by the military who seem to have no intention of allow-

ing the return of the residents to communities they have attacked. These are underscored by incidents in the communities of peasants, Moros and the Lumads.

Within a year, 80,211 individuals evacuated their communities from Quirino, Samar, Negros Occidental, Sarangani, Compostela Valley, Agusan del Norte, Agusan del

Sur, Maguindanao, Misamis Oriental, Sultan Kudarat, Davao City, Davao Oriental, Bukidnon, North Cotabato, and Surigao del Sur aside from the 410,000 evacuees from Marawi. Until now, military bombings in Marawi persist even though many civilians are still trapped inside the city, compounding the humanitarian crisis.

Those in the evacuation centers are to be relocated to the tent city in Pantar, Lanao del Norte. This is

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"October..." continued from page 9

with three or more children, pension for dependents of who lost their breadwinners, and financial grants to students of schools of higher learning. In the following years, social security was extended to collectivized peasants. Free health care services, specially prenatal care and reproductive services, were extended to all.

Compulsory, free and universal education for children three to 16 years of age was implemented in 1919, and schools for children with learning disabilities. Literacy rate rose from 30% before the revolution to 75% in 1937. Non-Russian languages were promoted such that textbooks were printed in 44 languages. Everyone, including teachers and janitors, participated in the student governments in schools. Students could remove subjects they considered irrelevant from the curriculum. Lectures were conducted free for everyone, the arts were made public, and the number of libraries dramatically increased. Even in conditions of famine and hardship brought about by the war, the education budget was increased tenfold, and local governments had to provide food for the hungry students and teachers as part of their education program.

In the Declaration of Rights of the Peoples of Russia, the equality of all people were promoted, especially the rights of the minority nations for self-determination, and rights to belief and religion. In this law, women's rights to jobs, equal pay for equal work, and other rights within and outside the family were promoted. Women were given trainings in technical skills or higher education, and encouraged to speak out on their problems in the workplace.

These developments were never enjoyed by the Russian people during the time of bourgeois "democracy", even in the declared bourgeois "democracies" of the richest imperialist countries at that time such as the US, Britain, Germany and Japan. Wealth that was once controlled by the few were given over to the service of the many and the people were given the

freedom and opportunity for self-development under the dictatorship of the proletariat. This was the essence of true democracy, socialist democracy.

Thus, the toiling masses wholeheartedly defended the dictatorship from internal and external enemies. The internal enemy was the bourgeoisie who wanted to retrieve its lost power and the external enemy was the attacking gigantic German army in the Second World War. Thousands of workers volunteered for the war front, or worked overtime in the factories to fill up the lack of workers sent to battle. Thus, in just more or less 30 years, the Soviet Union had become one of the most powerful countries in the world.

When revisionists such as Khrushchev up to Gorbachev came to dominate the Communist Party and the Soviet government, they gradually deviated the dictatorship of the proletariat into a dictatorship of the bourgeoisie, where the government became a privileged stratum in society with exclusive access to social services, luxury and the nation's wealth. But because of the dictatorship of the proletariat's profound changes in Russia's social life, it took the bourgeoisie a much longer time to revive capitalism than the time it took the dictatorship of the proletariat to create the socialist economy.

This is a lesson for the toiling masses of the world who wish to establish a government that will serve their interests. That as long as the bourgeoisie exists, it will use all avenues and will not cease to attempt retaking its power, so that the dictatorship of the proletariat is necessary to prevent them. Likewise, this dictatorship needs increased vigilance to keep its own officials from being sucked into the current of revisionism or bourgeois ideas. AB

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*This item is seventh of a series of articles in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the October Revolution. For more details, read the History of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (Bolsheviks), 1939*

what the government did to the survivors of typhoon Haiyan in 2012 who were not allowed to return to their homes until now. Instead of helping the people to rebuild their homes, they even use the destruction to favor big bourgeois compradors in building their businesses where they can squeeze profits from the people.

Military and paramilitary attacks on the Lumad schools persists. According to the Save Our Schools Network, there are already 66 cases of attacks on these schools from July 2016 to June 2017. The most recent has resulted in the evacuation of 2,500 Lumads from Lianga, Surigao del Sur last July 5. This is the same community displaced on September 2015 because of the brutal killing of their community leaders and school administrator.

Compounding the situation, a 16-year student evacuee was sexually harassed by a military agent while in their protest camp in Panacañang.

### Political killings

Last July 13, the military indiscriminately fired on the house of Carlito Arado in Mabini, Compostela Valley. His wife was immediately killed, while he, Analiza (his daughter-in-law), and his two grandchildren were injured. Analiza is a member of the Parent Teacher and Community Association (PTCA) of Salugpungan Ta Tanu Igkanogon Community Learning Center (STTICLC) which strongly opposes the militarization of their school and community.

In Surigao del Sur, a peasant leader, Silvestre Maratas, 38, was killed last July 16. He was the vice-chairperson of Kapunongan sa mga Mag-uuma sa Surigao Sur (KAMASS-KMP)-San Miguel and a member of the DAR Provincial Agrarian Reform Committee and

former barangay council member of Magoyong, San Miguel.

### Illegal arrests

Several leaders and members of progressive organizations were illegally arrested. Last July 11, the police arrested a pastor and farmer, Kama L. Sanung, in Barangay Hinlaan in Sultan Kudarat. Sanung is an active member of Kesasabanyag Dulangan Manobo (KEDUMA), an organization of Lumads fighting the seizure of their ancestral land by DMCI.

In Valencia, Bukidnon, the military and PNP Public Safety Company arrested a couple, Ryan and Gretchen Espera, both members of Kasama-Bukidnon, a peasant organization in the province. The couple have not been seen after they were brought to the precinct last July 12. Arvin Bacalso, a 17-year old who was not even presented during the police briefing has not been seen up to the present.

A member of Kabataan Partylist in Malibcong, Abra, Regine Tadeo, was already four days missing when elders of Mataragan in Barangay Amti found her wounded and reported her abducted by the 24th IB. When Tadeo's father assumed custody, the PNP-Abra forcibly rearrested her even without a warrant. Her family and human rights workers under the Cordillera Human Rights Alliance are fighting to

regain custody. Even while she was hospitalized, the 24th IB and Governor Jocelyn Bernos insisted on arresting her.

Farmers Joey Querubin and Janeth Zamora were illegally arrested on July 7 in Sitio Landing, Brgy. Busdak, San Francisco, Quezon. According to their child, the police planted a plastic pack of drugs in their house to legitimize the arrest. The series of harassments started when they formed an Anakpawis chapter in the area. They were threatened and were forced to sign a document by the military.

### Threats and harassment

Seven farmers from Dupax del Norte, Nueva Vizcaya were accused as New People's Army supporters and harassed by the military last June 24. A land dispute case is ongoing between them and some landgrabbers.

Meanwhile, residents of Barangay Lake Danao in Ormoc City were once again evicted from their makeshift tents when they evacuated last July 6 due to an earthquake. They were driven out by the police and employees of Taganito Mining Corporation from the area and relocated to another evacuation center. AB

