

Comrade SK Senthivel, General Secretary of New Democratic Marxist Leninist Party issued the following statement of appreciation of Comrade Sison on behalf of the Central Committee of the Party

Comrade Jose Maria Sison: an Appreciation

The New Democratic Marxist Leninist Party (NDMLP), Sri Lanka expresses amid profound sorrow its highest respects for Comrade Jose Maria Sison who led and guided the Philippine revolution as founding chairman of Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), founder of the New People's Army (NPA) and pioneer of the People's Democratic Government in the Philippines. The NDMLP considers Comrade Sison among the greatest Marxist Leninist thinkers of our time and an indefatigable revolutionary fighter.

His life since days as a youth leader and activist has been one of revolutionary struggle to uphold and promote Marxism-Leninism and national democracy. In the process he waged relentless ideological and cultural struggles against anti-communist forces to build the Communist Party of the Philippines from its humble beginnings into a formidable mass political force.

He was an outstanding Marxist Leninist ideologist upholding Mao Zedong Thought as Marxism Leninism in the era of neo-colonial revival of imperialism, and he persevered against revisionism within the CPP to reset the Party firmly on the foundations of Marxism-Leninism.

His leadership guided the CPP's growth into a strong revolutionary political force, even when it was forced underground by the martial law regime of the brutal dictator Ferdinand Marcos, and inspired the masses to shake the foundations of the martial law regime. Undeterred by his arrest and torture by the armed forces of the Marcos regime and a term of solitary confinement, he devised ways to keep contact with the CPP leadership and other revolutionary forces. The anti-fascist mass upsurge following the assassination of Marcos' nemesis Benigno Aquino in 1983, forced the US to desert Marcos. Comrade Sison who was released following the overthrow of Marcos in 1986, despite US objections, was driven into exile in 1987 by the reactionary Corazon Aquino regime which he exposed as serving big bourgeois comprador and landlord interests.

The CPP lost political ground in his absence owing to sections of the CPP falling prey to delusions of democratic reforms under Corazon. Comrade Sison led the revitalization of the CPP by the Second Great Rectification Movement, launched in 1992, to strengthen the Party to ever greater heights by 1998.

Since 1992, Comrade Sison, together with the NDFP Negotiating Panel, ably represented the interests of the Filipino people and the revolutionary movement in peace negotiations with successive representatives of the Government of the Philippines. As Chief Political Consultant of the NDFP Negotiating Panel he wisely guided the NDFP in its negotiations with the Government over the past 25 years.

His paper "Stand for Socialism Against Modern Revisionism" was a beacon of theoretical clarity that lit the path of socialist revolution amid the gloom that befell the global left when capitalism was fully restored in the Soviet Union in 1990, which the global bourgeois mass media hailed as rejection of communism, end of socialism and triumph of capitalism. Comrade Sison's sharp

Maoist critique of modern revisionism in the paper offered a clear historical understanding of the process of capitalist restoration in the USSR since 1956. The paper served as key to understand the continuing viability of socialism and inspire the Filipino proletariat to persevere in the two-stage revolution and the international proletariat to thrust forward the socialist cause.

Comrade Sison's base in Utrecht became a political centre for international communist and anti-imperialist resistance movements. His prominent role in the centennial celebration of Mao Zedong in 1993 inspired a spirited campaign that reaffirmed Marxism Leninism and asserted Mao Zedong Thought as Marxism Leninism of the era of modern imperialism.

In the early 2000s, he played a key role in the formation of the International Conference of Marxist-Leninist Parties and Organizations (ICMLPO), an important centre for ideological and practical exchange among proletarian parties that uphold socialism and reject modern revisionism. He offered valuable insights and practical assistance to numerous communist parties of Asia, Europe and the Americas.

In the past decade, he led the International League of People's Struggles (ILPS) which served as a global coordinating centre for anti-imperialist movements. His paper "On imperialist globalization" in 1997 clarified that the proletariat remains the leading revolutionary force in the era of imperialism and socialist revolution.

Most remarkably, his scientific outlook, balanced judgment and keen awareness of the global situation enabled him to recognize the main enemy, take stands that distinguished between friendly and hostile contradictions and between short and long term threats, and recognize the need for a united front to isolate and defeat the main enemy of the humanity.

Comrade Sison's role in the international anti-imperialist struggle made him a prime target of US imperialism which placed him, the CPP and NPA on its list of "foreign terrorists" and persuaded the Dutch authorities to harass him using bogus charges. But Comrade Sison dared to overcome the US-Dutch conspiracy to intimidate him.

Prominent among major contributions of Comrade Sison are:

- His invaluable insights into the domestic crisis and the situation of the revolutionary forces in the Philippines, and advise to the CPP and the revolutionary forces in the Philippines that advanced the revolution to a new and higher stage.
- His critical analysis of the international conditions resulting in a Marxist-Leninist critique of the capitalist crisis of overproduction underlying the international financial crisis and the prolonged depression that haunts global capitalism, and reaffirmation that we are still in the epoch of imperialism, the final stage of capitalism.
- His keeping aglow the flames of Marxism-Leninism-Mao Zedong Thought as a mentor of the international communist movement, and inducing the proletariat to take advantage of the crisis of capitalism to persevere in the path of socialism and communism to propel the international communist revolution into a new dawn of revival and reinvigoration.

The New Democratic Marxist Leninist Party on this occasion of great sorrow at the loss of the great Marxist Leninist leader expresses its full solidarity with the Communist Party of the Philippines and other oppressed masses of the Philippines in their continuing struggle for freedom and social justice.

The Party pays its profound respects to Comrade Sison and sends its deep condolences to the Communist Party of the Philippines, the New People's Army, the National Democratic Front of the Philippines, the proletariat and the oppressed Filipino people, his family, friends and relatives.