

LIBERATION

VOLUME XLIII NO. 2 | PUBLISHED BY THE NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC FRONT OF THE PHILIPPINES | JUNE 2026



ABOUT THE COVER

The NDFP, represented here by the basic alliance of workers and peasants, calls on the Filipino people to advance to victory the people's democratic revolution amid US imperialism's aggression and wars in the world. As it celebrates its 53rd founding anniversary, the NDFP reiterates its stand for an active, free, and peaceful foreign policy amid the inter-imperialist wars.

Calling on the Filipino people to rise and demand an end to imperialist aggression and war, the NDFP believes the victory of the people's democratic revolution is its contribution to the global movement against US imperialism, the scourge of the world today.

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The NDFP is the revolutionary united front organization of the Filipino people fighting for national freedom and for the democratic rights of the people. Established on April 24, 1973, the NDFP seeks to develop and coordinate all progressive classes, sectors and forces in the Filipino people's struggle to end the rule of US imperialism and its local allies, and attain national and social liberation.

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is the official publication of the NDFP

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EDITORIAL

DEFEAT US IMPERIALISM TO ACHIEVE GENUINE INDEPENDENCE

Overthrowing the US imperialist-dominated state of big landlords, big bourgeoisie and bureaucrat-capitalists is the only way for the Philippines to achieve genuine independence. The fascist-puppet US-Marcos regime is the main representative of this state today, and the US-controlled Armed Forces of the Philippines its primary implementor of US dominance. While remembering the heroes of the Philippine Revolution of 1896, the NDFP calls on all Filipinos who value genuine independence to advance today's people's democratic revolution to resist US imperialism and all their local running dogs.

US imperialism, now more than ever, is digging-in its claws over the Asia-Pacific region after its failure to totally control the Middle East and Latin America. Its ambitions for global hegemony through the first-island chain in Asia has plunged the Philippines not only into deeper economic crisis from the oil price shock but into the brink of destruction by making it a military magnet for attacks in the event of an inter-imperialist war.

The whole Philippine archipelago is being used as a military base for provocations against China. Aside from the nine official EDCA sites and numerous officially undisclosed military installations in Northern Luzon and Palawan, civilian infrastructure is utilized for military purposes. The recent unannounced launching of a Tomahawk missile from the civilian Tacloban City airport endangered millions of Filipinos with its low-lying 630 kilometer flight to Nueva Ecija.

The West Philippine Sea is also used for anti-China provocation, with the ever-increasing scope and frequency of military exercises on interoperability to cement US imperialist hold on the Armed Forces of the Philippines. In a blatant show of arrogance as world police, US Coast Guard ships passed near Scarborough Shoal to patrol waters that are thousands of miles from US coasts. The USS Abraham Lincoln also sailed through



Philippine waters before going to the Middle East to support bombing operations in Iran.

Just like the Aguinaldos of old that relinquished to the US colonialists the Filipino's hard-earned victory against Spain, the US-Marcos Regime unabashedly surrenders the Philippines territory to the US, confirming that Philippine independence is an illusion, as it has been for the past 80 years.

US imperialist control of the economy is intensified with the Pax Silica civilian-military project. Indigenous people's farms are being demolished in wide areas around the "economic security zone" where tax-free and rent-free US and Israeli corporations will set up infrastructures that will overstretch the already strained water and power resources of the region, while hastening the degradation of the environment with more mining ventures.

And as people's movements hold protests to assert Philippine sovereignty, the puppet US-Marcos government continues to intensify the AFP's counter-revolutionary campaigns and operations by widespread repression of both the legal democratic forces and the armed revolutionary forces in the urban areas and countryside. US-supplied fighter jets, drones, helicopters and bombs destroy forests and farming villages, displacing thousands of peasant families and indigenous communities. Harassment, illegal arrests, extrajudicial

killings, massacres and violations of the International Humanitarian Law are normalized and justified through the state's concerted cyber operations, disinformation, and psywar, or covered-up through distracting circuses and power grabs in government institutions.

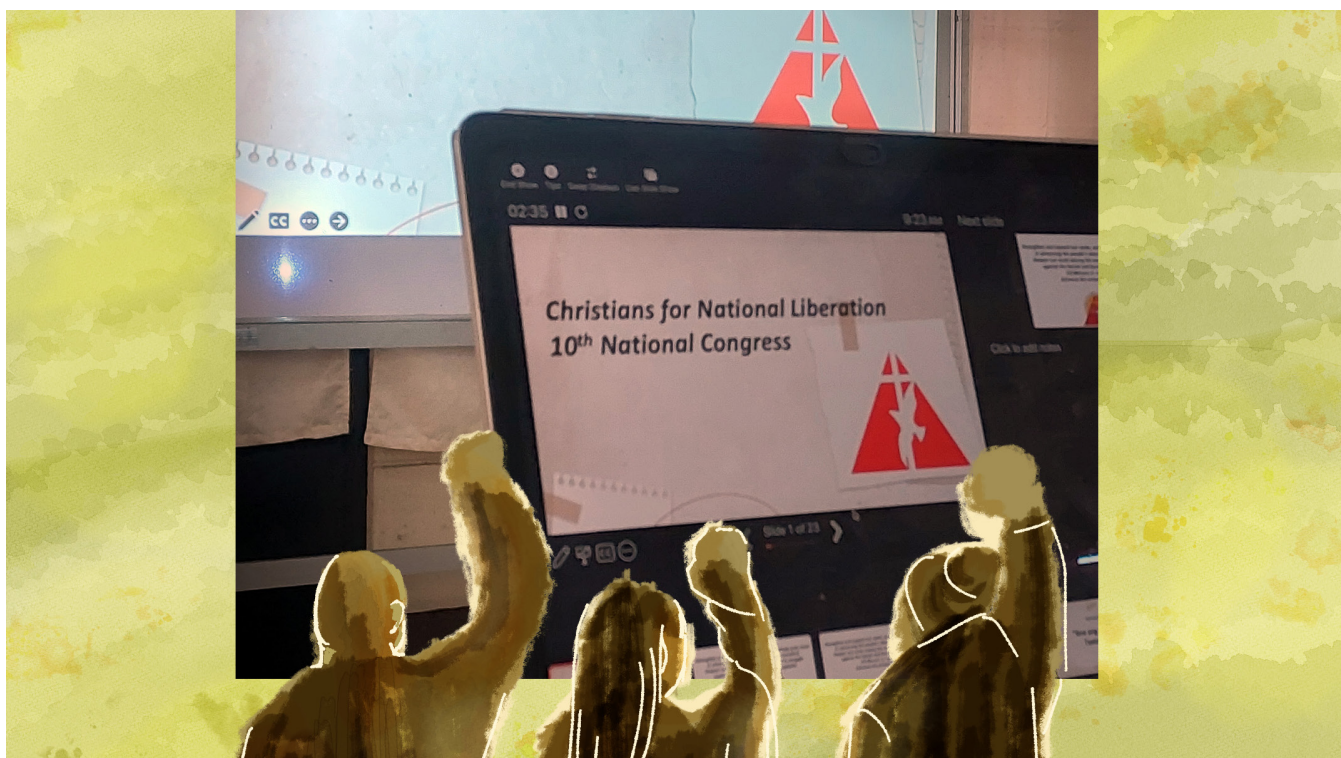
Thus, the ongoing people's war against US imperialism, feudalism and bureaucrat capitalism is advanced to achieve genuine independence. The NDFP's 12-point program that promotes land reform, national industrialization, democratic rights, and independent foreign policy will only be implemented by a pro-people government that will replace the present US-controlled, corrupt bureaucrat-capitalist and scandal-ridden government. The revolutionary armed struggle going on in the countryside gains strength as the Filipino people continue to fight for true independence and liberation.

Down with US imperialism, feudalism and bureaucrat-capitalism!

Advance the national democratic revolution! **LIB**

First published in liberation.ndfp.info last June 12, 2026.





BUILDING A COMMUNITY OF FAITH FOR LIBERATION

by Priscilla Guzman

A tribute to its heroes and martyrs was a fitting finale to the 10th national congress of the Christians for National Liberation (CNL), a founding member of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP).

“Inspirasyon natin sila. Hindi sila naging maramot sa buhay nila. (They’re our inspiration. They were never selfish with their lives), said the newly elected secretary general of the CNL, Phillip Rebson.

The names in CNL’s hall of heroes and martyrs left a tradition of service to the masses—those who lived their faith not just in the Churches but also in the communities of the poor and oppressed; and not a few, in guerrilla fronts as members and commanders of the New People’s Army.

Global members of CNL, which was launched in October last year, paid special tribute to Luis Jalandoni, former chairperson of the NDFP peace panel and its international representative when he was deployed abroad in 1976. “We remember Ka Louie’s life and legacy in his first death anniversary this coming

June 7, 2026... Ka Louie Jalandoni who served as a strong voice for the oppressed and exploited, especially the sugarcane farm workers of Negros both as an activist priest and one of the founders of CNL.” As international representative, Ka Louie Jalandoni helped organize Filipinos abroad and reached out to church leaders in various countries, gathering support for the national democratic revolution.

The NDFP statement signed by its secretary general Elias Dipasupil, echoed the same. The heroes and martyrs among church people “did not simply enlighten people about a coming heaven in the far-off future but instead integrated deep into the lives of the masses to understand their misery and strength. They helped them fight the present crisis that made hell become a reality in the here and now,” said Dipasupil.

After the congress delegates had crafted a four-year action plan that worked around the theme “Strengthen and expand our ranks and further advance the national democratic revolution with socialist perspective; Deepen our integration with the masses in overthrowing the

bureaucrat capitalist and fascist US-Marcos regime,” elected chairperson Renmin Malaya declared the congress a success. Malaya said the congress was timely as it was held in the context of the rectification movement and amid inter-imperialist conflict and war and the widening cracks among the local ruling classes.

Expanding our ranks

“Tiyak na magiging malaki ang ambag ng CNL sa kasalukuyang pagsisikap na isulong ang rebolusyong Pilipino. Nasa yugto ito ngayon ng panibagong pagpapalakas, matapos dumaan sa panahon ng pag-atras at seryosong mga pinsala bunga ng panloob na mga kahinaan at pagkakamali (With certainty, the CNL will make a major contribution to the current efforts to advance the revolutionary movement. It is now in a stage of rebuilding, after a period of retreat and setbacks caused by internal weaknesses and mistakes),” said the CPP Central Committee in a statement addressed to the congress.

In one of the breaks, the session hall door was accidentally locked and the key could not be found. Stuck outside the hall, some delegates tried to find the key, others attempted various tricks to open the lock, while a few looked for a way to access the windows to see if they could get into the hall through it. Eventually, the door was opened and the next session went ahead.

A large part of the congress was devoted to identifying approaches to increase CNL membership by a third, an important component of the four-year program of action. Coming from the different regions across the

country, the bishops, religious and pastors, lay workers and youth representatives buoyed each other up in a friendly competition to surpass their organizing targets. Outside of their own regions, each one referred church people they knew who can be contacted, who can provide support, and who can be organized and mobilized for the national democratic revolution.

During the discussion, Rebson pointed out the delegates’ experience with the locked door—when everyone did not sulk with a lost key, did not limit themselves to the familiar ways, and looked for other means to open the door. He compared it to their organizing work—for the need to explore all forms of organizing while using the time-tested methods of gathering the church people. After all, he said, the number is just a baseline. The critical signpost is what brings more gains to the people and propels the national democratic revolution to victory.

Deepen our integration

The 10th Congress statement said broadening the church people’s ranks means building a community of faith to liberate the oppressed.

The Liga ng Agham para sa Bayan (LAB-NDFP) lauded CNL for giving “emphasis on the importance of deep integration with the masses, which is a crucial step in unlocking the masses’ revolutionary potential and in advancing the national democratic revolution.”

It has been this way since the CNL’s establishment in 1972—the commitment to participate in the people’s war to liberate the poor, oppressed, and exploited. CNL as



one of the founding members of the NDFP helped build the basic alliance of workers and peasants, and drew in church people on the side of the oppressed and to support and join the revolution.

CPP's Central Committee noted, "*Katulad na gumampan ng malaking papel ang CNL noong unang yugto ng pagsulong ng demokratikong rebolusyong bayan sa maagang bahagi ng dekada 1970 at sa muling paglakas noong ikalawang dakilang kilusang pagwawasto, tinatanaw namin ang makabuluhang papel na gagampanan ng CNL sa pagsisikap na lahatang-panig na isulong ang mga rebolusyonaryong gawain sa iba't ibang panig ng bansa.* (Much as CNL was pivotal to the upsurge of people's democratic revolution in the country in the early 1970s—and again during the Second Great Rectification Movement—we envision CNL taking on a significant role in a nationwide, coordinated effort to advance revolutionary tasks and initiatives across every region."

In her message, NDFP peace panel member Coni Ledesma said, "May CNL continue to advance, welcome more new members and steadfastly bear witness to what true Christianity truly is—standing up and fighting for the rights of the oppressed and exploited." Coni Ledesma is one of the pillars of CNL.

In keeping with this, Malaya reiterated CNL's resolve to continue to immerse themselves in the struggles of the oppressed and exploited—the peasants, workers, indigenous peoples; and to work for just peace and advance the national democratic revolution. Malaya also emphasized the need to deploy forces to the New People's Army, aside from the material and technical support.

Rightly, the 10th Congress ended: "With urgency, let us faithfully advance the armed struggle. Proclaim and bear witness to the justness of the people's revolutionary war against the unjust and ruthless war of the ruling elite. Support and cherish the New People's Army, develop and intensify the armed struggle. Let us reaffirm our vow to heighten the support in all fronts and carry forward the national democratic revolution with socialist perspective." **LJB**

Ako si Magda, naka pink blouse sa sona

Interbyu ni Mia Andres kay Magda

Gabi, madilim. Naka-flash light ako para makita ang daan. Pero may narinig ako na nagsabi, "Kasama, pakibabang yung flashlight mo." Ako pala ang sinasabihan.

So, ibinaba ko naman ang tutok sa flashlight. Hindi ko naman kasi namalayang nakataas pala. Pagbaba ko sa flashlight, sa bilog na liwanag nakita kong may paa, nakatsinelas, mahabang pantalon na nakatiklop at katabi nito ... ang dulo ng barrel ng mahabang baril. Doon ko nakita ang unang image ko ng NPA. Astig!

Bagong pakat ako sa yunit ng New People's Army para dumalo sa anib ng Partido. First time ba. Halata. Kasi pumasok akong naka-sandals, slacks, at pink na blouse. Hindi t-shirt ha, blouse talaga. At dahil bago nga, syempre, nadapa ako. Pero hindi sa bundok ha, dun pa lang sa kalsada. So, na-sprain ako at kailangan kong gumaling—in two days—para makasama sa paglilipat ng kampo. Tuwing ikatlong araw kasi kami naglilipat ng kampo dahil magalaw ang kaaway sa rehiyon namin.

At dahil bagong salta nga, naibigay ko yung totoong pangalan ko! In my defense, bagong gising lang kasi ako nun. Pupungas-pungas pa ako nung may nagtanong sa akin anong pangalan ko. "**** po!" Sabay abot ng kamay. Ay mali! "Magda! Si Magda pala ako!"

Hamon sa pag-oorganisa

Ang pinakatan ko ay isang oversized squad. Bilang pagtugon sa kilusang pagwawasto ng Partido, bumaba ang yunit na ito mula sa parte ng kabundukan at lumapit kung nasaan ang masa. Karamihan sa yunit ay galing sa uring magsasaka. Sumunod ay mga kabataang peti-burges na, sa mga kwentuhan, ay very hopeful sa kinabukasan ng rebolusyon at ng bayan.

Sa organizing work, ang kasamang pesante ang kakatok sa bahay at makikipagkumustahan. Ang peti-B naman ang magbibigay ng pag-aaral at mangunguna sa diskusyon



(ang iba ay supply officer o kaya medic). Madalas, sa gabi ang organizing dahil nasa bukid at taniman ang mga magsasaka sa araw. Kami naman, sa umaga ang consolidation activities para sa aming yunit. So, educational discussions yun.

Recovery-expansion ang mga lugar namin. Halos 20 years ding hindi ito napuntahan ng mga kasama dahil sa tindi ng militarization sa lugar. Dahil matagal nang hindi sila nakakita ng hukbo, iba-iba ang reaksiyon ng masa. Sa isang bahay na napuntahan namin, habang ang tatay ay tuwang-tuwa na makita kami at napakaraming kwento, ang nanay naman ay nag-aalangan na papasukin kami. Tinatakot kasi ng mga militar ang masa para hindi tanggapin ang hukbo sa bahay nila. Naniniguro rin ang masa sa pagtanggap sa mga kasama kasi ang mga sundalo nagpapangap na hukbo.

Hustisya sa rebolusyonaryong kilusan

Nung pumasok ako, gusto ko rin sanang makarinig ng kaso tungkol sa revolutionary justice.

Natutunan ko na sa kilusan, ang hustisya ay hindi “unbending.” May pag-unawa at pag-consider sa komunidad. Halimbawa, kapag katutubo ang may kasalanan sa kilusan, imbes na patawan agad ng parusa kung napatunayang may sala ay maaring angkinin na lang siya ng kanyang komunidad at siguruhin na hindi na siya uulit at makakapinsala pa. Pagkilala rin kasi ito sa kultura ng mga pambansang minorya at sa sarili nilang paraan ng pagpapanagot sa may kasalanan. Pero depende rin sa bigat ng kaso. Ang mahalaga nag-uusap ang komunidad at ang hukbo at Partido. Hindi tulad sa burgis na hustisya na kulong agad, lalo na kapag mahirap. Dito sa atin, hindi bulag ang hustisya.

Dito ko nakita ang kahalagahan na ma-document ang mga karanasan sa pagsulong ng revolutionary justice. Imagine kung maisulat natin ang lahat ng karanasang ganito, madaling magagabayan ang iba pang yunit sa pagpataw ng hustisya. Maipakikita rin natin ang matingkad na kaibahan ng hustisya ng rebolusyonaryong kilusan sa hustisya ng reaksiyunaryong gobyerno.

Recti na ako sa iwas-integ

Mindblowing sa akin noong na-realize ko na NPA pala ako dito. Dahil may maliit na baril akong hawak, cal. 45, hindi pwedeng chika-chika lang ang gawin ko sa hahay ng masa.

Nag-exposure ako kasi hindi ko pa nagagawang mag-integrate sa hukbo kahit noong nasa YS pa ako. Sarado talaga ako noon. Hindi mo ako mapapaakyat.

Dalawang linggo rin ako sa yunit ng hukbo. Hindi nila alam na abugado ako. CO lang namin ang nakakaalam at ibang officers. Nung andito na lang ako sa sektor nagbukas sa integ. Matindi kasi yung reports ng harassments, militarization sa community. Kaya, recti na ko sa pag-iwas integ.

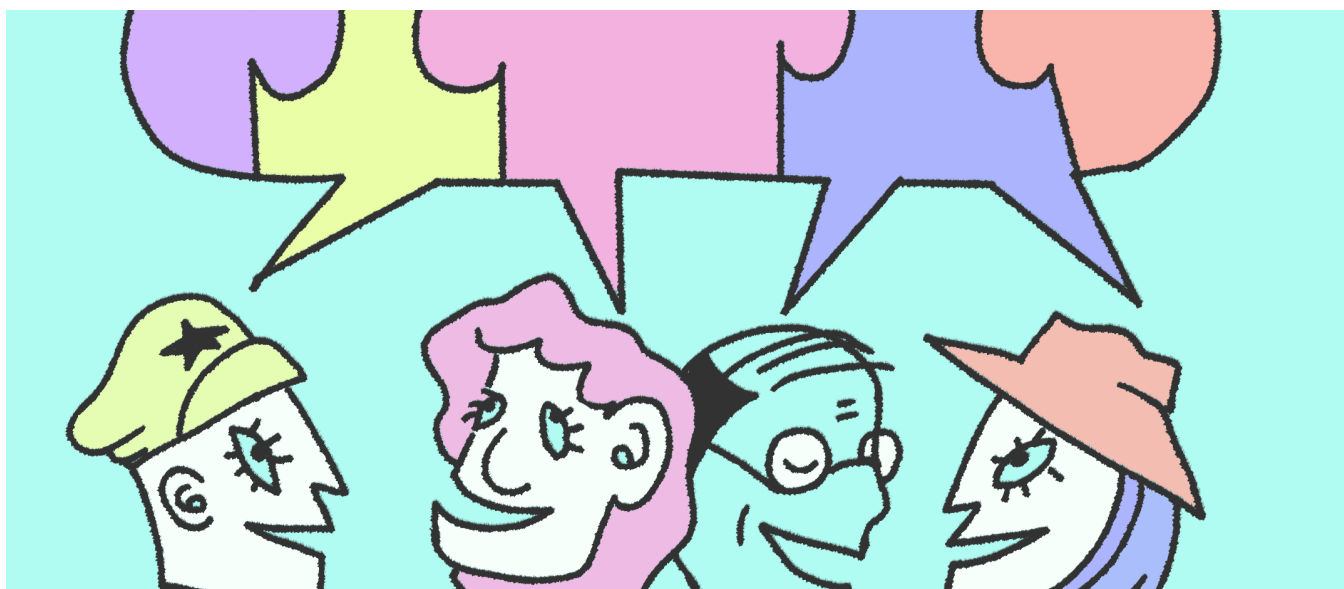
Feeling ko kasi ang layo namin sa rebolusyon. Siguro may conservatism dahil yata sa pag-conform sa reaksyunaryong batas. Nadadala sa framework na hindi kami armado. Feeling ko dapat may manggaling sa amin gaya ni Hannah Cesista na naghukbo, di ba?

Bar passer na siya noong nagdesisyong sumapi sa armadong rebolusyon. Imbes na sa korte humarap at maghapag ng kaso, sa kanayunan siya pumunta at nagsilbi. Para sa kanya, hindi na sapat ang mga ligal na reporma. Sa dami ng nakita niyang mahihirap na dinaya ng justice system, ng sistema na kailangang baguhin. Napatay siya noong February 2024 ng mga militar sa Bohol. Lima sila. Encounter daw pero sumurender na sila. Pero tinotyrur pa rin sila ng mga sundalo tapos minasaker.

Napatunayan ng karanasan ko na kailangan talagang mag-take ng role ang mga katulad kong abugado sa rebolusyon bukod pa sa pag-challenge sa mga repressive laws at pagtanggap ng mga kaso. Bilang abugado sa kilusan, hindi kailangang mag-aral ng abugasya at pumasa sa bar. Ang kailangan sa abugado ay mailabas ang katotohanan. Yun naman talaga dapat, di ba? Tingin ko rin na kailangan pang patiningin yung discussion tungkol sa revolutionary justice.

Totoo naman na kailangang kailangan talaga ng mga makabayang abugado sa panahon ngayon. Pero habang hindi nababago ang mapanupil na sistema at nandiyan ang mga naghahari na may kontrol sa batas, sa ekonomiya at kultura, magiging bandaid ang abogasya para sa mga naaagnas na sugat ng lipunan. **LIB**





The revolutionary movement's treatment for society's mental health

by Mia Andres

More than 150 years ago, Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels already criticized the capitalist system for damaging not just the wages and living condition of the working class but also their physical and mental well-being. The inherent features of capitalism were described by Engels in the book “Conditions of the Working Class in England” as alienation from work—workers separated from the product of their labor which becomes a capitalist commodity—social isolation, and despair.

Come the 21st century, when social order worsens and capitalism reaching its peak of self-destruction, the conditions of people's mental health around the world also gets worse. Imperialism is already in full-blown offensive against humanity to keep it passive, uncritical, divided, and distracted.

Later, the imposition of neoliberal policies—deregulation, privatization, and liberalization—facilitated by fast-developing technology, popularized and promoted through various traditional mainstream and social media platforms aggravated the already prevailing mental health concerns. Individualism and commercialism have become the key narratives. It is not surprising thus, for the World Health Organization to say that worldwide statistics in 2023 showed one of eight people suffer from mental illness.

In the Philippines, a study conducted by the House of Representatives, also in 2023, cited that mental illness is at 11.3 to 11.6 percent and the number increases by two percent yearly. Compare this to the number of mental health practitioners in the country according to the Philippine Psychiatric Association: 651 psychiatrists, 516 psychiatric nurses, and 133 psychologists. The Philippines has only two psychiatrists per 100,000 people, far below the WHO's 10 psychiatrists per 100,000 people.

Mental health manual for revolutionaries

Recognizing this situation and that its members are no exception from the rest of the population, the Communist Party of the Philippines drafted a manual on mental health for its members, cadres, and Filipino revolutionaries in general to guide them through mental health concerns and ensure that these are properly handled.

The manual comes amid rising fascist attacks against the masses, activists, and revolutionaries and a bankrupt economy that degrades basic social services, including the overall health situation of the country. Factors such as nutrition, access to health care, number of health workers and attending physicians, national budget

allotted for health care—all in dire condition—reflects the inability of the reactionary government to recognize, much less respond, to mental health problems of the people. Most hospitals are not equipped to admit the increasing number of mental health patients, especially emergency cases.

Although there are natural factors in mental illness—such as a hereditary predisposition, the effects of a dysfunctional family; the impact of other physical illnesses; or the consequences of severe disasters—it cannot be denied that the extraordinary increase in morbidity and mortality from mental disorders worldwide has been driven by the deepening, widespread crisis in economic, political, and cultural conditions caused by imperialism.

Along this line, the manual identified the most common stressors poor Filipinos experience are caused by the exploitation of the ruling class—the hunger, job insecurity, landlessness, among others. The manual also clarified that while these stressors exist, people handle stress differently. Thus, the need to further understand their condition to address these correctly, especially in times of crisis and worsening attacks on people's democratic rights.

The Mental Health Manual takes off from the Basic Course on Health released by the Party in the 1980's. The section on mental health at that time was written for medical officers of NPA units in the countryside where there are no psychiatrists. In 2000, the CPP took the cue to produce this current manual for mental health when the number of cases among comrades increased. The Party made sure the manual is reader-friendly and adaptable to many local languages. It is now on its second edition. The Party's National Health Bureau however, stressed that the manual is a work-in-progress as more information and practical experience on its use from the Regions are gathered; and, as new medical researches and practice continue to evolve and develop.

Facing mental health among comrades

The Mental Health Manual recognizes that just like the physical body, the mind is also vulnerable to illness and fatigue. While they have different functions, they are integrated thus needing adequate care such as proper nutrition, exercise, and rest.

Stress isn't always negative. It is a way for humans to finish tasks and develop more functions. Yet, the manual identified responses and symptoms of persons that may already indicate mental illness or mental health problem. It cautioned however, that there should be careful and thorough differentiation between behaviors that are symptoms of mental health problems and those that may stem from ideological problems.

There are pointers in the manual on how to handle comrades with difficulty managing stress, anxiety, trauma or similar concerns. On circumstances that the collective is not able to handle this, they are advised to reach out to a psychiatrist or a doctor. Yet, even with professional consultations, the collective must take on responsibility in managing the mental health of a patient especially those who have traumatic experiences.

There was once a case of a patient in a remote indigenous community. When a psychiatrist comrade visited that community, the patient's relatives sought the doctor's help. The patient was diagnosed with schizophrenia and depression, and knowing that the patient will not have enough money and supply to buy prescription medicine, the psychiatrist not only taught the patient but also his whole support system on how to manage his condition. The support system will have to make sure the patient gets the right amount of exercise, eat fruits and vegetables and sleep not less than eight hours a day and when the situation permits, a check-up with health care professionals.

This highlights the key difference between mainstream treatment and people-centered approach. Most western trained psychiatrists would readily prescribe medication to patients facing mental health issues. While pharmaceutical companies undoubtedly benefit from this, patients may become heavily reliant on the increasing doses of medicines just to function day-to-day. In contrast, the revolutionary movement's approach offers a more complete treatment. It seeks to address the problem by getting into its roots and leveraging available resources in the community to find solutions. This approach integrates counseling, alternative medicine such as acupuncture and herbal medicines, medicinal drug (if necessary), and organizational methods into a comprehensive treatment plan.

The revolutionary movement's significant position to address mental health concerns

The national democratic movement is in a position to address mental health problems primarily because of its world outlook and understanding of society, the scientific method it uses in crafting solutions to change the world, and its available organizational mechanisms such as its collectives.

Embracing the principles of Marxism-Leninism-Maoism (MLM), a scientific ideology, teaches one to study the concrete conditions of one's realities, both as individual in a society and the society as a whole. It teaches one to confront situations scientifically which minimizes speculation, anxiety, and the fear of the unknown that are usual the stressors. More importantly, MLM guides revolutionaries in their life's purpose to persevere in the struggle to end all forms of exploitation and oppression against the working class. Revolutionaries acquire a deeper sense of meaning in life which gives them strength to brave through hardships, sacrifices, and face dangers at the enemy's front.

To an unenlightened worker, the inhumane conditions at work, the meager salary, the high prices of basic needs bring hopelessness and desperation and look at these as individual failure. But Marxists would not stop here. They would go beyond and see the need and urgency to change these conditions, the need to organize and strengthen their ranks and fight for change.

Revolutionaries also have collectives. It serves as their support system while engaging in revolutionary work and even in their personal lives. Having a collective life helps members develop revolutionary attitudes in performing work and in dealing with comrades and

masses. The collectives are mechanisms to resolve any conflict and challenges with objectivity and away from subjectivism. With the culture of care and understanding in the collectives, problems are not individualized but shared. Together, they untangle knots and identify causes of problems.

With concerns such as mental health, the collective is the first line of defense. It serves as first responder for comrades in navigating stress or difficult situations. The collective listens and objectively analyzes the issue at hand. Together, they establish concrete steps and recommendations to resolve the individual and collective concerns, while also monitoring the implementation of these solutions.

Overall, the ideological, political, and organizational work sharpens the mind of the revolutionaries. It is not just to make revolutionaries think clearly but to use the acquired tools of analysis in their daily lives—in addressing their individual concerns, in fighting the enemy, and in advancing the revolution. With the constant social investigation and class analysis, regular planning and assessments, comrades are able to understand the causes of wins and losses and to push further for victory.

The new edition of the mental health manual has been issued in recognition for the need to comprehensively address the mental health challenges among comrades and the people they serve. The vast force of revolutionaries are not only dedicated but also healthy, sharp, and steadfast for this protracted people's war to win. **LIB**





by Iliya Makalipay

In today's world, conflicts and wars are often explained in terms of "national security," "war against terror," or "territorial defense." But over a century ago, Russian revolutionary Vladimir Lenin offered a different way to understand war—one that focuses less on justification and more on who benefits, and why the war is being fought in the first place.

Two very different kinds of war

This isn't about who fires the first shot. It's about class interests and class struggle in the era of monopoly capitalism and proletarian revolution. It's about the struggle of the proletariat against the bourgeoisie.

Lenin's distinction between imperialist war and revolutionary war remains a powerful tool for making sense of current conflicts. At the heart of Lenin's framework is a simple but sharp contrast:

Imperialist wars are fought by powerful states like the United States to expand or protect economic and political dominance, while revolutionary wars are fought by oppressed classes—particularly the proletariat or working class—or nations fighting to overthrow that dominance, assert national sovereignty, and build a new social order, specifically socialism.

Imperialism means war

Lenin describes imperialism—or late-stage capitalism—as the concentration and centralization of capital into

monopolies and finance capital, the fusion of banking and industrial interests, and the export of capital (not merely goods) to colonies and neocolonies. These developments produce global domination by a small number of powerful monopolies and financial groups.

Rather than eliminating competition, monopoly capitalism intensifies it. Rivalry among capitalists and between imperialist states becomes fiercer, pushing a continual drive for territorial and economic expansion. To secure higher profits and strategic advantage, capital seeks ever more raw materials, investment outlets, markets, and spheres of influence while enlarging the reserve army of labor to suppress wages. This heightened struggle produces recurring crises of overproduction and frequently leads to armed conflict. In Lenin's analysis, wars of annexation and intervention thus become inevitable under imperialism.

The December 26, 2025 CPP anniversary statement stated that the "intensifying political, financial, economic, trade, and military conflicts between the biggest imperialist countries are the principal contradiction, particularly in the face of the US imperialism's relentless imposition of its hegemony over the entire world."

Imperialist war follows from the economic and political logic of monopoly-finance capitalism for two connected reasons:

- Fierce rivalry over the redivision of the world—markets, colonies, raw materials, investment outlets, and spheres of influence—when existing partitions and profitable outlets prove insufficient.
- The dominance of finance capital—the merger of bank and industrial capital—combined with the export of capital and the emergence of international monopolies that partition the globe; in these conditions, violent redivision becomes a practical instrument for securing profits and strategic advantage.

Not to be overlooked is the fact that defense industries, arms sales, and security contracts all benefit from prolonged tension. War—or the threat of it—creates economic opportunities for powerful sectors.

Such wars are predatory. They are fought not chiefly for abstract notions of national honor but to defend or expand the economic interests of imperialist capitals and their financial oligarchies. They deepen the parasitic and decaying features of imperialist societies and can be ended only by proletarian revolution and the overthrow of capitalist-imperialist relations.

Lenin's 5 essential features of imperialism

1. Production and capital has become greatly concentrated that it has formed all-powerful monopolies;
2. The formation and predominance of finance capital or the financial oligarchy based on the merging of bank and industrial capital;
3. The export of capital, as distinguished from the export of commodities, has gained exceptional importance;
4. Formation of international monopoly associations which share the world among themselves; and,
5. Territorial division of the entire world among the biggest imperialist powers is completed.

Eve of social revolution of the proletariat

The crisis-prone and unstable imperialism is terminal and that makes proletarian revolution historically imminent.

Imperialism intensifies exploitation, deepens inequality, and forces rivalry among imperial powers (wars, colonial oppression). That heightens workers' misery and radicalizes them. The result, Lenin predicts, is conditions favorable for proletarian revolution—the overthrow of capitalist rule and establishment of socialism.

In October 2023, the CPP's keynote paper to the NDFP-sponsored International Theoretical Conference on Imperialist Wars emphasized that the rising inter-imperialist tensions that are escalating into open conflict and war unleash widespread brutality and suffering for workers and other toiling people, deepen national oppression in colonies and semicolonies, and further intensify exploitation of workers inside capitalist states.

The working-class response, it said, should be to oppose and prevent inter-imperialist wars, demand their immediate cessation when they occur, and use the crisis to advance democratic and socialist aims—mobilizing proletarian and allied progressive forces to protect workers' interests and push for systemic change.

Also, it believes that these also “generate opportunities for communist and workers parties to raise their capability and place themselves in a better position to take advantage of a possible explosion of a revolutionary situation by leading the broad masses of

workers, peasants and other exploited and oppressed classes onto the path of revolutionary class struggles in their countries.”

In March 2026, the CPP's statement on the 57th anniversary of the New People's Army called on the Filipino people to wage people's war to fight imperialist war and crisis.

There is a real risk today that existing inter-imperialist conflicts will intensify and new ones will erupt elsewhere. Stopping these wars ultimately depends on workers and ordinary people carrying out revolutionary, class-based struggles against their ruling class governments, in imperialist countries, or in states being exploited as pawns, staging areas, or military footholds in an imperialist war.

Understanding war isn't just about maps and missiles—it's about power and purpose. Behind every conflict lies a struggle over who controls resources, wealth, and the future itself. Rightfully, it should belong to the hands of those who truly create the material wealth of a society—the proletariat. **LIB**

Imperialist war is an armed conflict driven primarily by the economic and political interests of capitalist monopolies and financial elites—aimed at securing markets, raw materials, investment outlets, strategic territory, or spheres of influence.

- **MOTIVATION:** Protect or expand the profits and power of imperialist capitals and their financial oligarchies, not national honor.
- **ACTORS:** Rival capitalist states and international monopolies (often backed by their ruling classes and military apparatus).
- **MECHANISMS:** Uses annexation, intervention, puppet regimes, proxy wars, and unequal economic domination (including export of capital).
- **CONSEQUENCES:** Widespread brutality and suffering for workers in colonies and neocolonies; intensified exploitation at home; deepening of imperialist parasitism and global inequality.
- **RELATION TO CAPITALISM:** Emerges from monopoly-finance capitalism and intensified inter-capitalist rivalry; overproduction, competition for outlets, and the fusion of bank and industrial capital make violent redivision of the world likely.
- **POLITICAL CHARACTER:** Reactionary and predatory—defends and extends capitalist-imperialist relations; can only be ended by overthrowing those relations through proletarian revolution.

Revolutionary proletarian war is an armed struggle led by the working class and its vanguard party to overthrow capitalist and imperialist rule, dismantle the existing state apparatus, and establish a workers' state (socialist system).

- **AIM:** Replace capitalist property relations and imperialist domination with proletarian political power and collective ownership of the means of production.
- **LEADERSHIP:** Organized, politicized working-class organizations (trade unions, soviets/councils) directed by a revolutionary party.
- **MASS BASIS:** Broad mobilization of workers, peasants, and oppressed classes—rooted in mass political struggle.
- **STRATEGY AND TACTICS:** Combination of political struggle and armed revolution against state and counter-revolutionary forces.
- **INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVE:** Seeks to link domestic revolution with the broader anti-imperialist and international proletarian struggle.
- **OBJECTIVE OUTCOMES:** Abolition of capitalist exploitation, dismantling of imperialist structures, establishment of proletarian democracy, and transition toward socialism.



by Pinky Ang

‘America First’ is Donald Trump administration’s self-minted license for imperialist American wars and aggression in pursuit of their naked self-interest. It demands first dibs on resources and spheres of influence around the world, from oil to trade routes to minerals and rare earth metals. At the same time, he wants to shut out imperialist America’s rivals in countries they do business with or treat as “allies” or trade and security “partners.” If they are not with, or not vowing to, America, these countries court sanctions and rising tariffs, intervention (ranging from abduction, regime change, global demonization, etc.) and war.

Trump is leading the charge to reassert hegemonic control of not just their allies but also of those former colonies and regions that have been veering toward America’s rivals. It is seeking a deeper and broader imperialist expansion while suffering increasingly huge budget deficits and fierce challenges from imperialist rivals.

A year into his second term, Trump’s actions and pronouncements bluntly declare that might makes right, to hell with rules of law, conventions of war, others’ sovereignty, or respect of their so-called allies. In fact, to hell even with the United Nations and other multilateral institutions they themselves helped form after World War 2. These institutions are supposed to usher in what leaders of their allied countries now mourned as “rules-based” competition and contention between and among superpowers and emerging powers. As a European Commission leader said at a regional security conference held in Munich, “Some lines have been crossed that cannot be crossed anymore.”

In fact, chiefs of imperialist America, not just Trump, had not let up in pursuing their naked self-interest as leaders of imperialist US. They have been crossing uncrossable lines since America became an imperialist. To paraphrase Trump himself, they haven’t been innocent in past wars. What “changed” under Trump is the increased intensity

and brazenness in their policies, wars and intervention. Some media reports call it “norm-busting.” It is simply a criminal leader acting in desperation because the imperialist US is in a crisis it cannot seem to get out of. It has ramped up its engagement in wars, an imperialist big business to help it maintain itself. So far though, the more it tries to get out of the crisis, the more it sinks like in a quagmire.

US Department of Defense now aptly called Department of War

Trump’s administration has revised imperialist America’s security strategy. They aptly rebranded the US Department of Defense into Department of War. His Secretary of Defense (War), Pete Hegseth, is known for his contempt for laws of war. Hegseth has claimed the rules of engagement “tie the hands of soldiers in the field.” He has fired many senior legal advisers in military operations and gutted the Pentagon’s Civilian Harm Mitigation and Response Office. This is akin to preparations to more freely commit war crimes.

The Trump administration is renewing or extending the imperialist US neocolonial control in many regions of the world. Toward their neighboring countries, Trump revived the Monroe doctrine to add the Trump corollary, to reassert imperialist American control over their neighboring American countries. The emblematic example of their stance is their January 3 abduction of Venezuela’s sitting president Nicolas Maduro. And their ensuing “negotiations” with (or threatening) the acting leaders of Venezuela.

Venezuela has twice nationalized their oil industry, enraging oil majors including that of US. Venezuela holds some of the world’s biggest oil reserves. It also received the biggest official Chinese loans and grants in South America (\$106 billion between 2000 and 2023 according to a research center called AidData).

“We’re going to be taking out a tremendous amount of wealth out of the ground,” said Trump after American forces abducted Maduro.

These days, all the crude oil being dug out of Venezuela are being hauled to Texas (USA) for processing, said a Chavista professor in a webinar following the US attack on Venezuela. US oil majors are “negotiating” exclusive crude supply contracts with Venezuela.

In America’s new national security strategy, they declared they would deny competitors the ability to position military forces or control strategic assets in the western hemisphere. That competitor is China. Imperialist US is alarmed at Chinese becoming an economic force in their backyard western hemisphere. Chinese hold investments in infrastructure across this region.

In Panama Canal, Donald Trump exerted his imperialist US might to make Panama force out the Chinese conglomerate operating and owning ports at either end of the canal.

In Europe, Donald Trump representing imperialist US casts a long shadow. Europe is said to be imperialist America’s digital colony. Against the now 4-year Russia-Ukraine war, Trump wants to ink a peace deal with Russia. Reports suggest both US and Russia were talking of sharing the spoils of war. Meanwhile, the war drags on. Trump wants Europe to increase its defense spending, to decrease its “reliance” on America and increasingly foot the bill of operating NATO. Trump complained that America has been paying for NATO. His Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said America (American taxpayers actually) has spent \$22 trillion more than the Europeans on “defense” since 1980.



Europe has provided imperialist America with bases, helping US project power and defend its interests including in the Arctic; serving as market for \$1 trillion-worth of US goods and services; supplying technologies and even intelligence. They cooperated against the Soviets during the Cold War. Now the imperialist America wants them to increasingly shell out money, too.

Trump's security strategy reveals the imperialist greed as much as its crisis and bankruptcy.

Amid Trump's paper tiger order is a revealing cry about America's growing budget deficits and debts. It cries about being wronged, wronging its allies in the same breath. If we follow their logic, imperialist US just might fray its alliances. If imperialist America through Trump succeeds in making Europe wary, not just because of his insults about their sponging in NATO or his covetous claws toward Greenland, it is Trump's America who stand to lose strength.

Reports indicate that weaning Europe from dependence on American military hardware and technology may also spark a new arms race, including of nuclear arms.

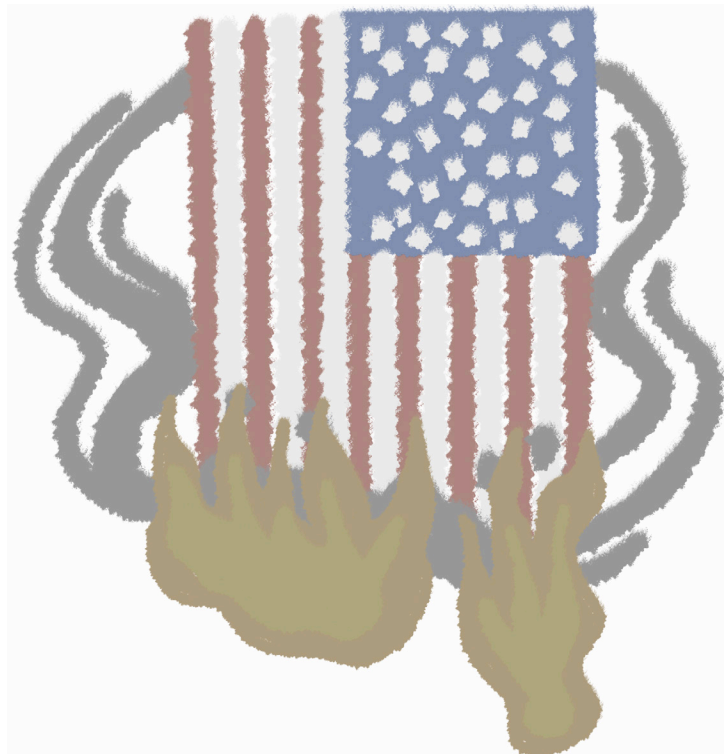
In other parts of the globe, Donald Trump's imperialist America is brokering deals, maximizing US benefits in the process, in conflicts in Africa which imperialist US also helped to foment. For example in the conflict

between Congo's army against Rwandan troops and M23, a rebel group supported by Rwanda. Imperialist America is helping Congo in return for access to its minerals. They brokered a peace deal between the contending parties in December but the fighting still continues. The Congo administration Trump supports also happens to be imposing a crackdown against citizens of Congo.

In the West Asia (Middle East), as we all know, Donald Trump has continued and intensified his predecessors' war against what they used to call 'rogue' states such as Iran. The US-Israel war against Iran has killed thousands including Iran's old leader and wreaked havoc not only in West Asia but in much of the world because of increased oil prices.

Trump said they have won on the first day of the war. But even satire shows have twitted him—for they were still hard put to end the globally unpopular war as of this writing. Trump has been forced to ask other countries to send their troops to Iran, and is now resorting to duplicitous releases of what Iran calls as fake news such as conducting peace talks to end the wars.

So far, Trump's bluster about America First is pushing it downward instead. But the heavy costs are being borne by the working people in America and everywhere US extends its claws. **LIB**





by Pinky Ang

Since he returned to the White House, Donald Trump has been menacing the masses and migrants in the US and the rest of the world. The war machine is more brazen, launching new and abetting lingering wars of aggression and intervention in various parts of the world. This early into 2026 his administration has launched wars of aggression, the most high-profile and costly of which are in Venezuela and Iran. His administration has sent troops to back their preferred leaders in Haiti and Congo, among others; tightened sanctions on Cuba; pressured Panama in pushing out China in port operations; engaged in a carrot-stick back and forth with NATO allies through demands to increase their share in military spending in the region; threatened allies such as Canada, Australia and Denmark; continued their involvement in Ukraine and Israel wars, and nearer to us, continued the US-led military buildup and war exercises in the “Indo-Pacific”—all in a bid to reassert imperialist American supremacy.

More blunt and blatant

Imperialist US have been sending troops to terrorize countries for energy, minerals, trade routes, or markets, but before Trump, its leaders often used to package it in pretentious, self-appointed terms such as global policing or enforcing rules. Trump has been described as coarse and would often tell it as it is. To those accustomed to how the imperialist US operates in double-speak (ie branding its rivals and targets as terrorists when it is actually the world’s biggest terrorist), Trump is like a “wayward” president.

Yet, Trump, like his predecessors, is animated by the desire to arrest the recession in the US economy and the slipping position of imperialist America in the global stage. He only differed a bit from recent chiefs of imperialist America in being blunt when pushing for wars or arm-twisting others. Reports noted how he didn’t even give the American presidents’ usual lip service to democracy or human rights when he abducted a sitting president. Though they slapped Maduro with trumped up charges, Trump himself was more vocal about cornering Venezuela’s oil.

They are putting pressure on other sitting presidents to be more welcoming of the US while shutting out US rivals. Or else.

In his home country, Trump has increasingly resorted to more blatant authoritarianism. He has deployed paramilitaries in American states, used presidential powers to hinder criminal investigations that might implicate him or his cronies, and used the courts and media censorship to stymie critics.

Yet he covets the Nobel Peace Prize.

For profit and gains

Trump wants his name immortalized, and not just in his family’s corporate towers. In what Filipinos would call as epal moves, he affixes his name to proposed government services such as the so-called Trump accounts. Using public funds of \$1,000 per baby born

during his presidency, Trump conjures a huge bonanza for the child when he or she reaches 18. But a horde of fact-checkers has already exposed it as a salesman trick. For the fund to grow, it requires annual infusion from the child's family themselves. His administration gladly received donations from big businesses who happen to be courting government contracts.

Despite his efforts to censor unfavorable news and intimidate critics, news still came out about Trump's family and friends increasing their net worth with Trump in the White House. The latest is a friend of Trump successfully gaining a majority ownership in US media. Meanwhile, Trump's family itself has been buying and selling stocks and tokens whose price Trump has influenced with his series of policy announcements.

All these self-aggrandizement seems to also describe Trump's tack in addressing the imperialist American problem of desiring hegemony while grappling with budget constraints and bloating indebtedness. For example: forming the "Board of Peace" and requiring members a hefty registration fee; insulting the imperialist American transatlantic allies to make them foot the "defense" bill of NATO; calling on "allies" in the Gulf, in Europe, in Japan and even China whom they are

negotiating with recently, to help the US as it flounders in its costly war against Iran; and nearer to us, making its "allies" such as the Philippines use their budget too in the construction, maintenance and purchase of defense articles and equipment for US military bases and interoperability with US troops.

As a politician, Trump is just starting his second reign's second year, but his approval rating in his country is already going down. The American masses are shouting angrily at protests and demonstrations that he is misusing their taxes and resources, starting and continuing wars with questionable justifications, and fattening the military-industrial complex while cutting back budgets on health, education, and public infrastructure. In many parts of the world, people are massing up, demanding that the imperialist US put an end to their wars of aggression. **LIB**



KA MINOY, SIR HANS, REYNALDO BOCALA: GURO MULA ABC HANGGANG DRB

ni Trinidad Villegas, KAGUMA



Isang guro sa Lutod-lutod, Capiz si Reynaldo Bocala o mas kilala sa pangalang Ka Minoy at Sir Hans noong 1971, nang siya ay makakuha ng pampulitikang pag-aaral na naging daan para lubos na maunawaan ang tunay na kalagayan ng lipunang Pilipino at saligang suliranin ng ating bansa. Kasabay ito ng makasaysayang First Quarter Storm sa Maynila na naging mitsa ng paglaban ng mamamayan sa pasismo ng rehimeng US-Marcos. Isa si Ka Minoy sa mga tagapagtatag ng hayag na demokratikong organisasyon ng mga propesyonal sa Capiz, ang MasangProp (Makabayang Samahan ng mga Propesyonal). Aktibo ang organisasyong ito kung kaya't maraming propesyonal ang naorganisa sa iba't ibang bayan ng Capiz at Roxas City na karamihan ay mga guro at inhenyero.

Nang ideklara ang Batas Militar noong 1972, si Ka Minoy kasama ang ibang aktibista ng MasangProp ay kumilos nang underground dahil tinutugis sila ng mga reaksyunaryong pwersa. Matapos ang isang taon, isa siya sa mga gurong nagtungo sa kabundukan. Bitbit ang prinsipyong paglingkuran ang sambayanan, kasabay ang ibang mga kasama, sinuong nila ang kahirapan sa unang pagsisikap na maipundar ang rebolusyonaryong base sa border ng probinsya ng Aklan, Capiz, at Iloilo sa Panay na tahanan ng mga katutubong Tumandok. Dito niya ibayong napanday ang sariling paninindigan at katatagan sa gitna ng maraming sakripisyo at kahirapan sa pagpundar ng rebolusyon mula sa halos wala. Dito rin niya nakilala at naging kabiyak si Ka Concha Araneta na tagapagsalita ng NDFP-Panay at nagkaroon sila ng apat na anak.

Walang eskwelahan at serbisyong pangkalusugan sa erya. Pagkakaingin ang mayor na kabuhayan ng mamamayan at isang beses lamang maaaring makapag-ani sa loob ng isang taon. Kinakailangan

namang maglakad ng dalawa hanggang tatlong araw para makarating lamang sa bayan para makabili ng

Guro ng rebolusyonaryong paaralan

Kaya naman sa isang baryo, sa boundary ng tatlong probinsya, itinayo ang kauna-unahang rebolusyonaryong eskwelahan ng Panay sa pangunguna nina Reynaldo at Nonito Aguirre, Sr. Sa pagtutulungan ng hukbo at masa, naitayo nila ang kanilang klasrum gamit ang kanilang mga itak, kawayan at kahoy. Si Reynaldo ay naging si Sir Hans sa rebolusyonaryong eskwelahan, ngunit dahil hindi mabigkas ng mga katutubo ang letrang “s”, siya ay naging Sir Han, ang kanilang pinakamamahal na guro.

Layunin ng eskwelahan na agad matugunan ang uhaw sa edukasyon ng mamamayang pinabayaan ng pamahalaan. Mabisa ang paraan ng pagtuturo nina Sir Han dahil mabilis na natutong magbasa, magsulat, bumigkas ng rebolusyonaryong tula at awitin ang mga mag-aaral sa loob lamang ng ilang buwan, at hanggang sa kasalukuyan ay memoryado pa ito ng mga naging estudyante nila. Kasabay nito, tinuruan din sila ng paglilinis ng katawan, paglilinis ng bahay at kapaligiran nang sa gayo’y maiwasan ang pagkakasakit ng kanilang mga pamilya. Parehong estudyante ng rebolusyonaryong paaralan ang bata at matandang miyembro ng mga pamilya mula sa baryo at kalapit na mga baryo. Araw-araw silang nagtuturo para sa mga bata habang tuwing sabado naman ay para sa mga matatandang estudyante.

Hindi nagtagal ay malalaman ng mga kaaway ang tungkol sa eskwelahan ng mga katutubo, at kalauna’y susunugin ito ng Philippine Constabulary. Pero bago pa man ito maganap, nalaman na ito nina Sir Han kasama ang dalawa pang rebolusyonaryong guro at ng higit 100

mga estudyante't pamilya nila kaya't nakapagbakwit na sila patungo sa sukal na bahagi ng kabundukan.

Ang pagsira ng mga pwersa ng estado sa eskwelahan ay hindi naging hadlang kay Sir Han at mga kasama upang patuloy na magturo. Mula sa pagtuturo ng literasiya, kalusugan at sanitasyon, naging palagiang paksa ni Sir Han sa mga pormal at impormal na mga kwentuhan ang programa at patakaran ng demokratikong rebolusyon. Ang kwentuhang kusina ng mga hukbo ay nagiging lunsaran ng pagpapaalala at pagbabahagi ng mga prinsipyo at aral, wastong paraan at pananaw maging sa mga usaping praktikal na kinakaharap ng masa at hukbo. Naglalaan talaga siya ng oras makakwentuhan lalo na ang mga kasama at masang hindi niya madalas makasalamuha.

Taguyod sa araw-araw ng buhay ng masa

Giya rin siya sa paglutas ng mga suliranin na kinakaharap ng magsasakang minorya sa upland ng Central Panay at naging bahagi sa pagmumulat para angkinin nila ang rebolusyon bilang kanila. Noong panahong iyon, nag-aastang panginoong-maylupa ang 3rd Infantry Division na naniningil ng "tumado" o upa katumbas ng doble sa binhing itanim bawat taon sa mga lugar na sakop ng idineklarang army reservation. Upang epektibong malaban ang pagsasamantala at panggigipit ng 3rd ID, kinakailangang mabuo ang mas mataas na pagkakaisa sa pagitan ng mga angkan ng mga Tumandok. Kasama si Sir Han sa masigasig na kampanyang edukasyon upang matigil ang alitan sa pagitan ng mga ito. Mula rito, naigiit ang kanilang karapatan sa lupang ninuno na nagresulta sa pagtigil ng paniningil ng "tumado."

Matindi ang dinadanas na kakapusan ng mga maralitang magsasaka sa kabundukan ng Panay, hindi lang sa komunidad ng mga Tumandok. Naging mahalaga ang pagpataas ng produksyon para maibsan ng kahit bahagya man lang ang kahirapang dinadanas ng mga magsasaka. Si Sir Han ay tuloy-tuloy na naging bahagi ng kampanya sa pagpapataas ng produksyon sa sentral at sur na bahagi ng Panay na inilunsad sa mahigpit na pagtutulungan ng mga magsasaka at mga kasama. Napalawak ang pananim na kape sa kabundukan mula sa mga punlang pinagtulungang hakutin galing sa patag, na hanggang sa ngayon ay napapakinabangan ng masa para pangkonsumo at *cash crop*.

Lalaya ang bayan

Noong 2002, matapos kumilos sa iba't ibang lugar sa Panay, dumalaw si Sir Han kasama ang isang yunit ng hukbong bayan sa baryong una niyang pinagtayuan

ng eskwelahan. Sa sentro ng baryo, nagsilabasan sa kanilang mga bahay ang taumbaryo dahil nakilala siya ng dati niyang mga estudyante na ngayo'y humahawak na ng iba't ibang katungkulan sa konseho ng barangay at sa organisasyong masa. Bawa't isa sa kanila ay nag-alok na doon siya mag-almusal sa kanilang bahay at ipagluluto siya ng manok.

Pero hindi nalubos ang kanilang kwentuhan dahil dumating ang militar na noo'y nagpapatrulya sa di kalayuan. Nagkaroon ng palitan ng putok. Tinulungan ng mga tao na makaatras ang yunit ni Sir Han. Inayos nila ng mga naiwang gamit para hindi makuha ng militar at sinugsog nila sa ilog ang mga kasamang nahiwalay para muling maiugnay sa yunit. Sapagka't ang naituro niya sa masa ay hindi lang ang pagbabasa at pagsusulat kundi ang sama-samang pagkilos, pagtutulungan at mapanlikhang pagharap sa kaaway sa uri.

Si Sir Han ay madalas nagkukuwento, sa kasama man o masa, ng mga kuwentong nagpapahiwatig ng mga aral mula sa karanasan, lalo na tungkol sa pagharap ng kagipitan at mga hamon, at hindi napapawing pagtiwala sa masa at rebolusyon. Bilang isang musikero, kompositor, at mang-aawit, maging ang kanyang mga awitin na inihahandog sa mga umpukan ay nagpapaunawa na ang bayan ay lalaya lamang sa pagrerebolusyon ng mamamayan.

Para sa demokratikong karapatan ng mamamayan

Inialay ni Sir Han ang kanyang buhay sa pakikibaka at pagsusulong ng demokratikong karapatan ng mamamayan, lalo na ng magsasaka sa kanayunan kung saan siya nakipamuhay bilang hukbo at kadre. Mayo 28, 2021 nang siya ay pinatay ng mga pwersa ng estado sa edad na 74, sa tinutuluyang bahay sa syudad ng Iloilo habang nagpapagamot.

Ang kasaysayan ng buhay ng mga katulad ni Sir Han ay mga kuwento ng walang pag-iimbot na paglilingkod sa sambayanan, ng walang pagod na pag-ambag ng kakayanan sa pagsusulong ng kanilang demokratikong interes at karapatan, gaano man katindi ang panunugis at pamamaslang ng mga pwersa ng reaksyon na sumisiil dito.

Ang pagsisikap niya ay bahagi ng isang mas malawak na pambansa-demokratikong/rebolusyonaryong kilusan na naglalayong maipatupad ang kumprehensibo at progresibong patakarang panlipunan hanggang makamtan ng buong sambayan ang lipunang nararapat nilang matamasa. **LMB**



Monram Ramirez: Advancing national industrialization and the Philippine revolution

by Bernadette Rojo

An integral aspect of the national democratic program is national industrialization (NI) in tandem with genuine agrarian reform. NI promises to subvert the current import-dependent, export-oriented framework of the Philippine economy in favor of a society that can stand on its own two feet. This is point number 7 of the 12-point program of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines, and we would be hard-pressed to find a better personification of this point than Engineer Ramon “Monram” Ramirez.

Monram turned his back on a comfortable bourgeois career to serve the Filipino people. In his five decades of service, he brought to life the spirit of national industrialization, specifically in how he helped organize the country’s science and technology sector and move them towards science and technology for the people in the context of the Philippine revolution. In this way, Monram continues to inspire the latest generation of revolutionary scientists, engineers, and professionals.

Powering up the revolution

Monram’s decades-long contribution to the revolution began with his active participation in the Samahan ng

Makabayang Siyentipiko (SMS or Alliance of Nationalist Scientists) as an undergraduate electrical engineering student at the University of the Philippines. After topping the electrical engineering boards in 1967, Monram worked briefly for companies such as Coca-Cola and San Miguel Corporation before deciding to leave the corporate world and instead dedicate his life to the revolution.

Monram embodied the “red and expert” character of a revolutionary scientist. In the 70s and 80s, as a staff member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Philippines, he mainly focused on the possible applications of science and technology in military research. Initially based in the cities, Monram’s work eventually brought him and other comrades to the countryside.

Here, Monram was able to advance revolutionary work by making use of modern technology. One was introducing computer programming into the communication protocols of the NPA. Initially, Monram’s comrades were not too enthusiastic with the new technology. Monram was able to change their minds by programming a device that could answer simple questions related to the

revolution—perhaps the first ever AI chatbot used in the countryside! From there, Monram's computer work expanded, particularly into the field of programming, encryption, and communication.

Aside from tinkering with computers and programming, Monram and his other comrades in military research were also instrumental in other technological advances in the revolution, such as the setting up and guerrilla broadcasts of Radyo Sierra Madre in the mid-80s and the development of a portable acupuncture stimulator.

On top of technical services for the revolution, Monram played a big role in organizing within the science and technology sector. He was one of the founding members of Liga ng Agham para sa Bayan (LAB) and contributed to the publication of Agham Bayan, LAB's official newsletter.

Catalyst for change

For his active participation in the revolution, Monram was arrested twice by the reactionary government—in 1973, and again in 1992. These incidents did not stifle his perseverance. After his last arrest, he continued to contribute to the national democratic cause mainly as an activist in the legal mass movement.

In 1998, Monram was instrumental in bringing scientists, engineers, and professionals together for a conference on the state of science and technology. The keynote speech of Luis Jalandoni in this conference became the basis for future discussions on the state of Philippine science and technology, through the publication of what many S&T advocates and activists now call the “blue book.”

Another one of Monram's contributions was his involvement as the convenor of People Opposed to Warrantless Electricity Rates (POWER), an alliance which fought for consumer rights in electricity. With POWER, Monram made use of his vast experience with Meralco to score a victory for consumers in its case against the company in 2002. Monram is also well-known as one of the founders of Arkibong Bayan, an initiative which sought to record people's struggles through documentation and archival work.

Monram's work as a national democratic activist was in fact recognized by several institutions. In 2011, he was granted an outstanding alumni award for social cohesion by the University of the Philippines Alumni Association.

In 2019, he was named by the UP Alumni Engineers Association as a National Achievement Awardee in Public Services.

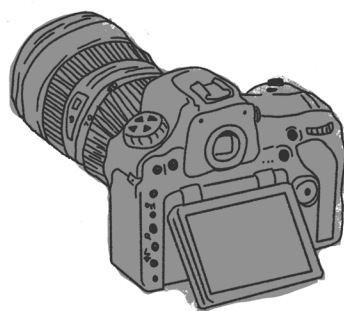
Passing the torch

Monram passed away on August 28, 2021 at the age of 77, at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. Up until the very end, he made sure to give what he could to the revolution. He made sure to attend the State of the Nation Address (SONA) mobilization a month before his passing, despite his old age and the public health situation.

Monram's spirit and dedication lives on in the work of all the comrades whose lives he touched. Emily (not their real name), a younger comrade who was able to work with Monram towards the latter part of his life, remembered fondly how Monram was a pleasure to work with. She shared how Monram would always crack nerdy jokes and keep things light-hearted even when talking about work.

“Monram always struck me as the ‘techie’ of the movement,” shared Emily. “He was always the one pushing comrades to use new technologies like the PDF format, Google, and social media during his time. Nowadays, these seem as the norm but back then they were new things to work with.”

People like Emily and countless scientists, engineers, professionals, and students continue to be inspired by Monram's life story. Perhaps this is also the clearest way in which Monram captures the spirit of national industrialization—more than just applying his own expertise, he endeavored to inspire so many others to contribute to the cause, so that we may achieve our collective goal of a better future for all Filipinos. **LIB**





Asintahin

by **ARMAS - Ka Soral Malaya**

*Tulang binigkas sa mga lansangan ng Maynila noong Abril 2026
para sa pagdiriwang ng ika-53 anibersaryo ng NDFP*

Tignan mo, sa taas, doon sa kalangitan
It's not a bird, not a plane, hindi rin si Superman
Iyan ang mapanakop na agila ng Amerika
Ng Imperyalistang pahirap sa malawak na masa

Sa paghina ng Imperyalistang kapangyarihan
Kaniyang pinagkakakitaan, pandaigdigang digmaan
Mula Palestina, Venezuela at ngayon ay sa Iran
Kung hindi tayo lalaban, madadamay ang ating bayan

Kaya ngayong araw, nahinog na ang pasya
Ng apat na kababayang makikipagdigma
Ngayong araw na ito, samahan niyo ako
Tanungin natin sila, ano ang kanilang gusto?

Ako ay **kabataan**, nawawalan ng pag-asa
Na may lipunan pang sa amin ipapamana
Kami'y pinag-aaral hindi para sa bayan
Kundi sa dayuhan at pasista'y manilbihan

**Ang nagbibigay pag-asa sa aming kabataan
ay MATAGALANG DIGMANG BAYAN!**

Pinapalayas sa tirahan, kaming **maralita**
Sa taas presyo'y pagkakasyahin kakarampot na kita
Pinagkakitaan ng kurakot sinisipi pa sa baha
Pero sa panganib ng krisis, kami ang nauuna

**Tanging nagbibigay lakas upang lumaban
ang MATAGALANG DIGMANG BAYAN!**

Ako ay **magsasaka**, pinagnanakawan ng lupa
Biktima ng sabwatan ng asendero't dayuhan
Kaming nagpapakain, wala nang kakainin
Sa pagpanaw namin, Amerikano ang salarin

**Ang magwawakas lamang sa aming kagutuman
ang MATAGALANG DIGMANG BAYAN!**

Ako ay **manggagawa**, pang kabayo ang trabaho
Aliping sahurang ng kompanyang Amerikano
Ang aming mga unyonista, kinukulong, pinapaslang
Ng estado't negosyanteng ganid 'sa'ming pinaghirapan

**Kaya aming tatanganan ang misyon na pamunuan
ang MATAGALANG DIGMANG BAYAN!**

Ngayon alam na natin ang makatarungang dahilan
Ng paglaban sa reaksyunaryo ng Bagong Hukbong Bayan
Hamon sa ating lahat na palakas ang suporta
Sa hukbong magpapalaya sa malawak na masa

Kaya itong agilang dayo sa ating teritoryo
Kasabwat ng asendero, kurakot at berdugo
Silang dumadagit sa yaman ng mamamayan
Tiyak paluluhurin ng proletaryadong himagsikan

Sa gabay ng Partido, sa bigwas ng Hukbo
Sa Pambansang Nagkakaisang Prenteng buo
Itaas ang kamao, kalabitin ang gatilyo

**ASINTAHIN:
IMPERYALISMO, PYUDALISMO
at BURUKRATA-KAPITALISMO**

Gaano man kalaki ang bagwis nitong agila
Mananaig ang gobyernong bayan,
sinag ng pulang umaga
Suportahan, lahukan ang pakikibaka ng mamamayan
**Ating pagpugayan
ang MATAGALANG DIGMANG BAYAN!**

NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC FRONT
OF THE PHILIPPINES
(NDFP)



ARTISTA AT MANUNULAT
NG SAMBAYANAN
(ARMAS)



STATEMENT OF THE NDFP ON ITS 53RD ANNIVERSARY

AMID THE IMPERIALIST CRISIS, THE NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC REVOLUTION CONTINUES TO ADVANCE

by Elias Dimasupil, Secretary General of the NDFP



The Filipino people are rising against US imperialist wars and aggression to defend Philippine sovereignty and address the increasing hardships brought about by the present world disorder. The national democratic revolution continues to advance nationwide, despite the reactionary government's yearly claims that they have decimated the people's army to inconsequence and destroyed guerrilla fronts.

In the countryside, the rural folk continue to support the New People's Army as their main weapon for liberation while reactionary armed forces impose martial law type hamlets, bomb villages, and massacre families. Despite the influx of US dollars, cyber high-tech and heavy armaments for counter-revolutionary programs, the NPA continues to grow and launch tactical operations and other military actions.

In the urban areas, in protest actions big and small, in multiple, dispersed, specific activities, different sectors of society are advancing aspects of the 12-point program of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines for national democracy as a comprehensive guide for their own struggles. People's mass organizations are growing stronger, more militant and more effective in pushing for their demands, influencing progressive and patriotic forces to respond. These continuing struggles give life and enrich the NDFP 12-point program, proving its correctness as the people's program for societal change.

The NDFP unites different sectors and interests in our call to end imperialist wars and to end US imperialist support for the landlord, bourgeois-comprador and bureaucrat-capitalist dominated reactionary government.

On our 53rd founding anniversary, the NDFP with its member-organizations honor Jose Maria Sison, Luis Jalandoni, Antonio Zumel, Fidel Agcaoili, Benito Tiamzon, Wilma Austria-Tiamzon and many other named and unnamed heroes and martyrs of the revolution. We take inspiration and lessons from their struggle to sharpen and renew our commitment in continuing the fight with the Filipino people to advance the national democratic revolution to victory.

We started more than five decades ago when the Communist Party of the Philippines brought together democratic people's organizations that were forced to go underground when the dictator Marcos Sr. declared Martial Law. Among them were Katipunan ng Gurong Makabayan (KAGUMA), Makabayang Kilusan ng Bagong Kababaihan (MAKIBAKA), Kabataang Makabayan (KM), Christians for National Liberation (CNL), and Pambansang Samahan ng Makabayang Tsuper (PSMT).

These mass organizations continued to work in the urban underground and in armed struggle in the countryside under the most oppressive and suppressive conditions imposed by the tyrannical Marcos Sr's rule. They embraced revolution, particularly through protracted people's war, as the only viable alternative to achieve freedom and democracy.

Since then, NDFP's allied organizations have grown nationwide, drawing in more national democratic organizations and encompassing sectors such as Liga ng Agham para sa Bayan (LAB) for scientists and engineers (1975), Makabayang Samahang Pangkalusugan (MASAPA) for doctors and health workers (1978), Revolutionary Council of Trade Unions (RCTU) for workers (1985), Pambansang Katipunan ng Magbubukid (PKM) for peasants (1985), Cordillera People's Democratic Front (CPDF) for indigenous people in the north (1986), Artista at Manunulat ng Sambayanan (Armas) for artists and writers (1987), Makabayang Kawani ng Pilipinas (MKP) for government employees (1992), Moro Resistance and Liberation Organization (MRLO) and Lumad Revolutionary Organization in the south (2005), Katipunan ng mga Samahang Manggagawa (KASAMA), Compatriots for migrant Filipinos (2013), and Lupon ng mga Manananggol Para sa Bayan (LUMABAN) for lawyers (2023).

Through the years, the NDFP has stood as the most consolidated national democratic organized force of the people's united front, drawing in patriotic sections of the population first against the US-Marcos dictatorship and later against the US-subservient regimes that continued

to abet exploitation, oppression and repression under the guise of bourgeois democracy. We grew in strength because the NDFP consistently stood for the interests of the workers and peasants as the main force, recognized and encouraged the essential participation of the petty bourgeoisie, and gave due consideration to the needs of other patriotic sectors, while dealing with restraint and just concessions with the elements from the ruling class who wished to relate with the national democratic movement.

We weathered the attempts by the revisionist contras to demolish the NDFP or drag it away from people's war when we successfully convened in 1994 the NDFP National Conference that reaffirmed the national democratic line, cemented the 12-point program, and systematized the organizational procedures and consensus among the allied organizations. Thus, we marched in unity along the second rectification movement and the revolution went on to achieve further successes in the middle phase of the people's war.

We accepted the task to represent the movement and the emergent people's government in the peace negotiations and our efforts resulted in important agreements such as the Hague Joint Declaration, the JASIG and the CAHRIHL, agreements that the successive government administrations chose to distort and the present regime now wishes to discard unilaterally.

We presently uphold and advance the rectification movement, led by the CPP, that has shown gains in overcoming our weaknesses and developing the national democratic movement amid the brutal onslaught of the US-Marcos regime.

Today, even as we celebrate more than five decades of achievements and arduous struggle, we recognize the crisis foisted upon the people by the imperialist wars and face these new challenges with serious determination and well-founded optimism.

The Filipino people, together with the whole world, are mired in deep economic difficulties within the imperialist system's worsening economic and political turmoil. The energy crisis these wars have created worsens the people's already miserable living conditions and further exacerbates the threat on people's lives and livelihood as the US-Marcos regime pigheadedly allows the US to escalate militarization of our country in its First-Island-Chain and drag us into the abyss of a brewing inter-imperialist war.

The National Democratic Front of the Philippines stands for an active, free and peaceful foreign policy to fight for the country's safety amid the inter-imperialist wars.

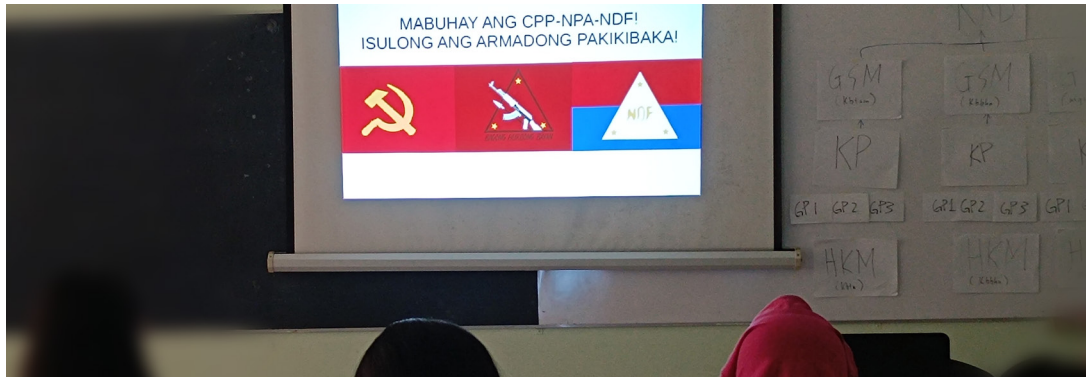
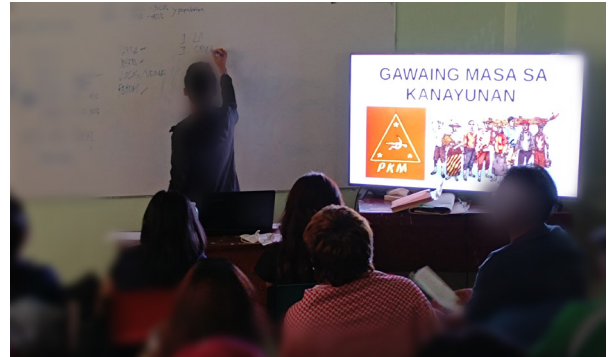
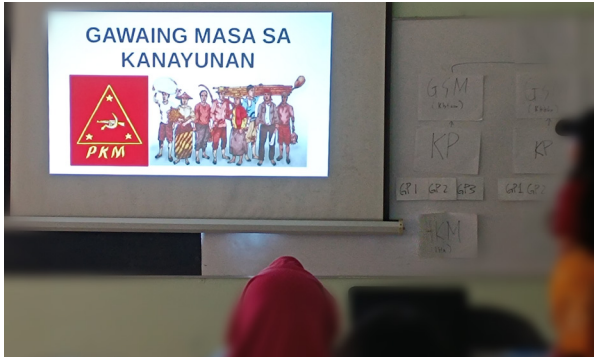
Additionally, the NDFP's 12-point program fights for national industrialization; agrarian reform; people's democratic rights; a people's democratic government; comprehensive social policy; mass-based, scientific, and nationalist culture; women's liberation; and right to self-determination of Moro and indigenous people. This program will address the problems of low wages, landlessness, joblessness and job precarity, environmental destruction, human rights violations and inadequate social services that the reactionary puppet regime refuses to resolve in its drive to serve its imperialist masters.

We welcome the gains of the people's army and the revolutionary mass base in the countryside. We likewise commend the forces in the revolutionary urban underground for their untiring efforts to expand and consolidate revolutionary organizations and networks, and link up with the revolutionary forces in the countryside. The national democratic revolution is advancing even as the US is increasingly taking a more direct hand in the reactionary puppet government's counter-revolutionary military campaigns.

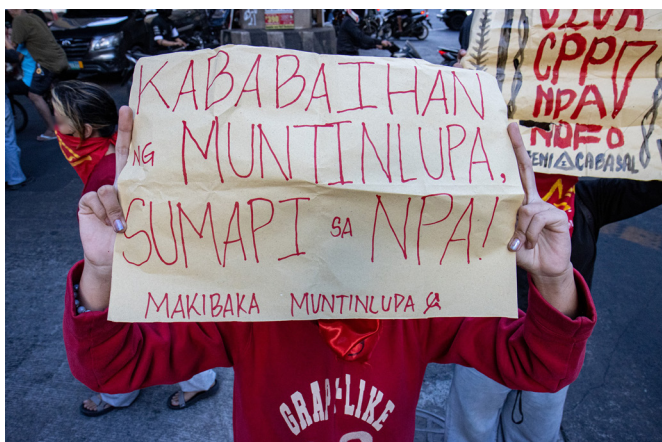
We encourage our allied organizations to strike deep roots among the masses more than ever, arouse and mobilize them to join the New People's Army and strengthen the armed struggle as our only way to establish a people's democratic government that will end imperialism, feudalism and bureaucrat capitalism.

We call on the Filipino people to rise and demand an end to imperialist aggression and war in Iran, in Gaza, Venezuela, Cuba, and everywhere else in the world. The victory of the people's democratic revolution will be our contribution to the global movement against US imperialism, the scourge of the world today. **LIB**

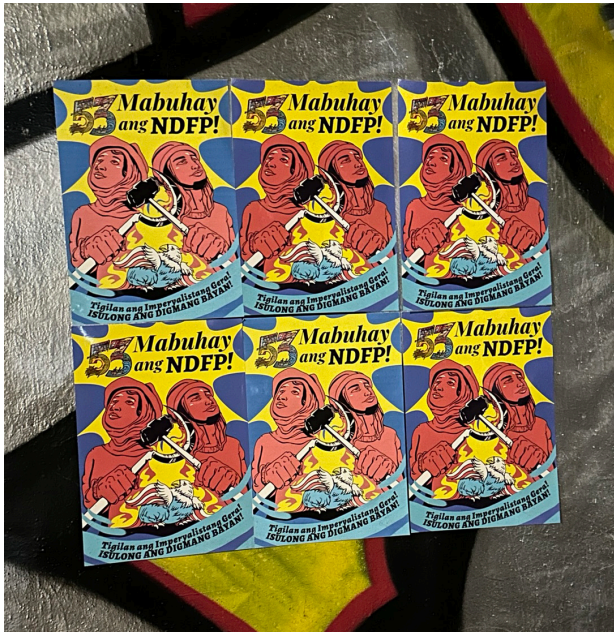
IN PHOTOS: NDFP allied organizations celebrate 53rd anniversary



Lightning rally held last May 5, 2026 along Recto Avenue in Manila



Posting in Metro Manila streets by NDFP member organizations



Street performance and lighting rally held last April 28, 2026 along Quirino Highway, Novaliches, Quezon City. Two similar street performances were held in Diliman, Quezon City and in Sta. Cruz, Manila.



