



KILUSANG MAYO UNO

(May First Movement Labor Center)

TAGAPAMANDILA NG TUNAY NA UNYONISMO

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KMU is a founding member of the International League of Peoples' Struggle

COMMUNIQUE OF THE 10TH NATIONAL CONGRESS OF THE KILUSANG MAYO UNO (KMU)

The 10th National Congress of the Kilusang Mayo Uno was successfully held at the Teachers' Camp in Baguio City from the 15th to the 19th of March 2011. According to the records, 233 delegates and observers participated in the assembly and a quarter of them were women. All regional chapters and labor federations were present, except for two regional chapters and two federations who weren't able to send delegates due to various reasons.

The Congress carried the theme "*Tanganan ang mga aral ng tatlong dekada ng Kilusang Mayo Uno! Ibayong magpalawak at magpalakas! Isulong sa mas mataas na antas ang pakikibaka para sa tunay na reporma sa lupa at pambansang industriyalisasyon!* (Uphold the lessons of KMU's three decades! Boldly expand and consolidate! Advance the struggle for genuine land reform and national industrialization to a higher level!)"

Opening Session

A moving cultural presentation marked the public opening of the 10th National Congress on March 16. The presentation, performed jointly by a cultural group from the Cordillera region and the Kulturang Ugnayan ng Makabayang Sining Anakpawis (KUMASA) from the Southern Tagalog region, immediately set the tone of the Congress. It reflected the Congress theme and the decades of struggle of the KMU together with the Filipino workers and people.

Prof. Jose Maria Sison, chairperson of the International League of Peoples' Struggle (ILPS) of which KMU is a member, delivered the keynote address via a video recording. He dealt with the global crisis and the fighting tasks of the Filipino workers and people with the key role of the KMU.

In his speech, Prof. Sison showed how neoliberal policies, responsible for the present crisis, have impoverished the toiling masses of workers and peasants through the worst forms of exploitation enforced by state terrorism. The workers and peoples of the world are now rising up on a wide scale in regions such as Latin America, South Asia, North Africa and the Middle East, and even in imperialist countries. Mass protests and general strikes against the worsening conditions of unemployment, homelessness and loss of social benefits have been launched. To weaken workers' and peoples' protests, the monopoly bourgeoisie is "trying to deceive and divide the people with the reactionary currents of chauvinism, racism, fascism and war hysteria."

Prof. Sison challenged the KMU "to carry forward the struggle of the working class and the broad masses of the people for national liberation and democracy in the Philippines against the US-Aquino regime and the entire ruling system..., confront and oppose the continuing

subservience of the reactionary government under Aquino to the US and its policy dictates..., (and) do everything possible to arouse, organize and mobilize the people in order to assert their national sovereignty, expand democracy, promote economic development through land reform and national industrialization, raise employment and improve the people's livelihood, make science and technology serve development and the people, realize social justice and achieve a just and lasting peace.”

He said the KMU's victories in the Philippines “constitute a contribution to the struggle of the workers and peoples of the world for a new, just and better world.”

Former Bayan Muna Representative and Makabayan senatorial candidate Satur Ocampo followed and discussed the country's economic and political situation. Then, Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas secretary-general Danilo Ramos discussed the peasant campaign for land and justice for the coming years. Solidarity messages, both from within the country and abroad, were read in various segments of the National Congress.

Discussions on organizational matters officially started in the afternoon of the same day. The Credentials Committee announced the total number of delegates – voting, non-voting and observers – and confirmed that the assembly reached quorum and, therefore, has the mandate to make decisions and approve plans of actions and resolutions.

Moving Past our Weaknesses, Building on our Strengths

The National Congress evaluated the General Program of Action for 2007-2009 which was formulated in the 9th National Congress and extended to 2010. Among the major areas of work reviewed were campaigns and mass struggles, local fights, education work, expansion work, and capacity-building.

Among the major economic and political campaigns waged by the KMU were:

- (a) for the legislation of a P125 across-the-board wage increase nationwide
- (b) against contractualization and other forms of flexible labor, and the scrapping of policies responsible for these
- (c) against oil price hikes and overpricing of petroleum products, for the junking of the Oil Deregulation Law and for the nationalization of the oil industry
- (d) against the demolition and burning of urban poor communities
- (e) the ouster of former Pres. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
- (f) against trade-union and political repression, against government's counter-insurgency operation plans responsible for these and against US support in such repression
- (g) for genuine agrarian reform with a special focus on Hacienda Luisita.

In his report, KMU chairperson Elmer Labog said the KMU actively advocated and fought for the rights and interests of the Filipino workers and people against the anti-worker and anti-people policies of the corrupt US-Arroyo regime and the current US-Aquino regime. KMU was steadfast in promoting economic reforms, mainly the legislated P125 daily wage hike for all workers across the country, which will alleviate workers' suffering amidst deepening poverty and hunger. It was persistent in advancing the basic demands of the workers and people both in the parliament of the streets and the halls of Congress and the Senate. It conducted various education activities to raise consciousness on the basis of various topics and advance the Filipino workers' and people's struggle for genuine independence,

democracy and socialism. The education activities were aimed at developing and heightening the political awareness and militancy of its members and leaders.

Despite the all-round attacks from the state, the KMU was unrelenting in advocating a genuine, militant and anti-imperialist unionism. It untiringly condemned and opposed the fascist attacks of the US-Arroyo regime on workers and the people. Campaigns against trade-union and political repression were carried out both in the Philippines and in the international community. The KMU was successful in creating strong pressure within the country and from the international community for the release of the late KMU chairperson emeritus and Anakpawis Representative Crispin “Ka Bel” Beltran, KMU legal counsel Atty. Remigio Saladero, Jr. and KMU National Council member Vincent Borja. All three, at various periods under the Arroyo regime (2001-2010), were illegally arrested, swamped with trumped-up charges, and imprisoned due to their active leadership in the struggle for the exercise of the freedom of association and of other rights of the Filipino workers and people.

A major highlight in the campaign against trade-union and political repression in the country was the Sept 22-31, 2009 International Labor Organization High-Level Mission which investigated violations on the freedom of association and the freedom to collectively bargain. This was the first time that an ILO High-Level Mission was sent to the Philippines since the country became an ILO member in 1948. The mission was a response to a complaint filed by the KMU at the ILO regarding the gross and systematic trade-union rights violations committed by the Philippine government which include: extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearances, illegal arrest and detention, militarization of workplaces and communities, and harassment and intimidation. The Philippine government initially refused the mission when it was recommended in 2007 but was forced to accept it after more than two years of KMU’s painstaking campaign and pressures from the international community.

Meanwhile, KMU secretary-general Roger Soluta reported on the work of KMU’s various departments. Organizationally, he said, the KMU has to step up its expansion work, especially on strategic enterprises and economic enclaves, and effectively counter attacks against KMU’s unions as well as contractualization and other forms of flexible work. He noted that much has to be done in organizing contractual workers, most of whom are women, and the throng of the unemployed who lost their jobs due to the global financial and economic crisis and the general lack of employment opportunities in the country. All these must be done, he said, in order to give a significant contribution to strengthening the progressive politics of change in the country.

On the second day of the Congress, the KMU Constitution and By-laws were amended, following a healthy and vibrant exchange of ideas. With the amendments, the Constitution and By-laws were noted to have a clearer and sharper exposition of KMU’s advocacy of a national democratic line with a socialist perspective. Recognizing the increasing phenomenon of child labor resulting from extreme poverty especially in rural areas, the KMU resolved to explicitly include the eradication of child labor in its advocacy.

General Program of Action and Resolutions

The General Program of Action for 2011-2013 was unanimously approved as well as 24 resolutions that put meat to the three-year plan. There were vigorous and vibrant discussions on the proposed General Program of Action and the proposed resolutions.

The resolutions are as follows:

- (1) Hold a Nation-wide People's Protest against the overpricing in petroleum products and the non-stop increases in the prices of these
- (2) Campaign for the safety and repatriation of Filipino migrant workers who are caught in the political turmoil in the Middle East and North African regions and to make louder the call for the creation of jobs at home
- (3) Hold a bigger Labor Day mobilization this year compared with last year's mobilization
- (4) Campaign for the passage of House Bill 375 which seeks to legislate a P125 across-the-board wage increase nationwide
- (5) Support the families of the 11 construction workers who died while building Eton residential towers

- (6) Reiterating support for Nestle workers who remain on strike and the call for the boycott of all Nestle products
- (7) Reiterating active support for union organizing efforts from all stages starting from union registration up to local strikes
- (8) Strengthen the KMU chapter in the National Capital Region
- (9) Effectively fight contractualization, outsourcing, spin-off and other forms of flexible work arrangements
- (10) Hold a national workers' conference on the extent of contractualization and the state of organizing contractual workers

- (11) Hold a national workers' conference on organizing in economic enclaves and export-processing zones
- (12) Commemorate April 28 as Worker's Memorial Day
- (13) Recognize the KMU website (www.kilusangmayouno.org) as a vehicle for disseminating KMU's media and mass propaganda materials
- (14) Reiterating the establishment of women committees in regional chapters, federations and unions under KMU
- (15) Actively fight all forms of urban militarization and the general repression and of residents of urban poor communities

- (16) Jointly work with Anakpawis Partylist and other progressive partylists to espouse workers' concerns thru sponsoring privilege speeches, inquiries and investigations in aid of legislation with the aim of gathering more support for workers' issues
- (17) Support the workers' union in the ongoing negotiations for a collective bargaining agreement in Lepanto Mines
- (18) Support Chestcore's campaign to stop the harassment of Cordillera health workers to assert people's right to health
- (19) Campaign for tax exemption on basic and overtime pay
- (20) Support organizing efforts in the bus industry

- (21) Condemn the US-led military aggression in Libya
- (22) Actively support the struggle of the ABS-CBN Internal Job Market Workers' Union
- (23) Support the struggle of the PIGLAS-NFWU-KMU workers to get their backwages and to junk the proposed fare hikes in Light Rail Transit (LRT), Metro Rail Transit (MRT) and other forms of government-owned mass transportation
- (24) Actively support and participate in the 4th International Assembly of the International League of Peoples' Struggle (ILPS) and the International Festival of Peoples' Rights and

Struggles (IFPRIS)

New set of leaders

New officers were elected and appointed and will serve their term from 2011 to 2013.

National Council Members

National Chairperson:	Elmer Labog
National Vice Chairperson:	Joselito Ustarez
Secretary-General:	Rogelio Soluta
Deputy Secretary-General:	Leandro Gerodias
National Treasurer:	Priscilla Ang-Maniquiz
Vice Chairperson for Political and External Affairs:	Joel Maglunsod
Vice Chairperson for Women and Child Labor:	Nenita Gonzaga
Vice Chairperson for International Affairs:	Tess Dioquino
Vice Chairperson for Central Luzon:	Dexter Datu
Vice Chairperson for National Capital Region:	Roy Velez
Vice Chairperson for Southern Tagalog:	Noel Alemania
Vice Chairperson for the Visayas:	Winnie Badayos
Vice Chairperson for Mindanao:	Romualdo Basilio
Vice Chairperson for Federation Affairs	Samuel Malunes
plus representatives from regional chapters and labor federations	

Department Secretaries

Mass Campaigns and Struggles:	Nelson Cornelio
Public Information Department:	Renato C. Asa
Education and Research:	Reden Alcantara
Women and Child Labor:	Marichie Agbao
Human Rights:	Leandro Gerodias
Legal Affairs:	Atty. Remigio Saladero, Jr.
International Affairs:	Miles Quero-Asa

Representatives of workers, jeepney drivers, vendors and national minorities from the Cordillera region led the oath-taking of the new officers. The leadership vowed to wholeheartedly serve the workers and the masses, to be humble in the face of criticisms and crisis, and to persevere in both studying and teaching. It vowed to firmly uphold the interests of the Filipino workers and people, to link with all oppressed peoples of the world, and to struggle for national sovereignty, genuine democracy and socialism against imperialist domination and all forms of reaction.

Tribute

A tribute was rendered to deceased KMU leaders who dedicated their lives to serving the oppressed workers and peoples of the Philippines and the world. Among those recognized were the late KMU chairperson emeritus and Anakpawis Representative Crispin “Ka Bel” Beltran, KMU secretary-general Wilson Baldonaza, KMU vice-chairperson for federation affairs Douglas Dumanon, PISTON-KMU president emeritus Medardo Roda, and pioneer

KMU organizer Danilo Belano – who are all considered giants in the Philippine trade-union movement.

ANGLO-KMU president Leonardo Perez, PISTON-KMU National Council member Armando Llanes and Bagong Alyansang Makabayan chairperson Carol Pagaduan-Araullo were also given special recognition for their selfless dedication to the national-democratic struggle of the Filipino workers and people.

It was noted that the death of Comrade Crispin “Ka Bel” Beltran epitomized the stark contrast between the simple life and honest service of Ka Bel and the immoral lifestyle and corrupt practices of the US-Arroyo regime. The death of Ka Bel also highlighted the political persecution launched by the US-Arroyo regime against progressive parliamentarians and activists who opposed her anti-people and pro-imperialist policies.

A step forward

The KMU’s 10th National Congress ended on a high note. The assembly recognized that the workers and peoples of the Philippines and the world, and the labor center, are in very favorable times. Faced with the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression of the 1930s, the workers and peoples of the world are mounting a widespread and militant resistance to the rapacity of imperialism and its allied classes. Faced with the intensifying chronic crisis of the semi-colonial and semi-feudal Philippine economy, the Filipino workers and people are demanding genuine social change – which can only be delivered by a national-democratic overhaul of the present system. Imperialists and their allies are at a dead end as the neo-liberal policies that they have implemented have been thoroughly exposed and discredited as having brought immeasurable suffering and poverty to the workers and peoples of the world.

Workers are at the forefront of struggles against widespread unemployment, flexible work arrangements, austerity measures, and budget cuts and for social justice and genuine social change. The working class is being challenged to fulfill its historic task of leading the struggle for social emancipation.

The 10th National Congress reaffirmed KMU’s commitment to take on the challenge of our times. KMU emerged from its 10th National Congress ever more committed to boldly expand and strengthen its mass membership using effective organizing methods and tactics – with special focus on strategic enterprises as well as export-processing zones and other economic enclaves. It is ever more committed to aggressively expanding and consolidating its membership in the transport sector and among the ranks of the urban poor through the mass organizations that it leads. It is ever more committed and determined to advance the immediate and long-term interests of the Filipino workers and people for reforms within the system and for the systemic overhaul of the present unjust social order. More than ever, it is determined to raise to a higher level the struggle of the Filipino workers and people for national freedom, democracy and socialism. This, KMU believes, is its contribution to the global struggle for a just and humane world. ###