



## BAYAN TOURS AUSTRALIA

◀ Melbourne ▶◀ Adelaide ▶◀ Alice Springs ▶◀ Perth ▶  
◀ Brisbane ▶◀ Canberra ▶◀ Sydney ▶

From July 7 for a month Fr. Alberto Suatengco will be traveling throughout Australia on a speaking tour to introduce BAYAN to people living here who are concerned with Philippine affairs. Organised by the Centre for Philippine Concerns - Australia (CPCA), sponsorship of Fr. Albert's visit is being sought from groups and individuals across all sectors. PASG QLD is proud to be participating in the preparations for the Brisbane exposure.

The Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (BAYAN), which means New Patriotic Alliance, is a multi-sectoral political federation of popular organizations in the Philippines which are not political parties. (See this issue's centre pages for a profile on BAYAN.)

Fr. Albert is an ordained priest of the Roman Catholic Church combining his duty as a priest with his socio-political concerns and involvement in the Filipino peoples' movement towards a just and democratic future.

Currently Fr. Albert is Parochial Vicar of St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Meycauayan, Bulacan while maintaining work for Central Luzon. He is also the Secretary General of BAYAN - Central Luzon, an Alternate Member of the BAYAN National Executive Committee, Vice President and Executive Director of Kaliyag-Pilipino Foundation Inc., and a Presiding Officer of the People's Caucus - Central Luzon.

As well as addressing the pressing issues of the Filipino peoples, Fr. Albert will talk about BAYAN's principles and its vision of a democratic coalition government as an alternative for the Philippines.

The CPCA welcomes offers of speaking engagements for Fr. Albert. Please contact the BAYAN Australian Tour Committee on (02) 283 3301 or PASG QLD.

The tour's costs amount to some \$3,000 of which Brisbane's share is \$400. PASG QLD asks for your assistance in making it possible for BAYAN to access the people and organisations of Australia.

Please consider:

1. approaching your community/group to:
  - arrange a meeting with Fr. Albert
  - make a donation to the tour costs
  - sponsor the tour
2. helping in the tour arrangements:
  - with publicity/hospitality
  - by introducing Fr. Albert to your community or sector.
3. subscribing to BAYAN's publication Paninindigan (see page 2)
4. - attending IPPF '91
  - contributing to the costs of another person's attendance.

### PUBLIC MEETING

WITH BAYAN SPEAKER  
FR. ALBERT SUATENGCO  
DATE: MONDAY, JULY 29th, 1991  
TIME: 7.30 pm  
PLACE: Ground Floor,  
74 Astor Terrace,  
Spring Hill, Brisbane



"If I should be killed, that will not be the end. Another elder will rise to lead the people. And if all the elders are killed, then our sons will in turn rise up to protect us all." .....Macli-ing Dulag

## MACLI-ING DULAG FORERUNNER OF "SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT"

From an article by  
Maurice B. Malanes  
Philippine News and Features  
April 21, 1991

Ten years ago this week, Kalinga pangat (tribal leader) Dulag was assassinated by government soldiers for leading his village to oppose the World Bank-funded Chico River Dam Project.

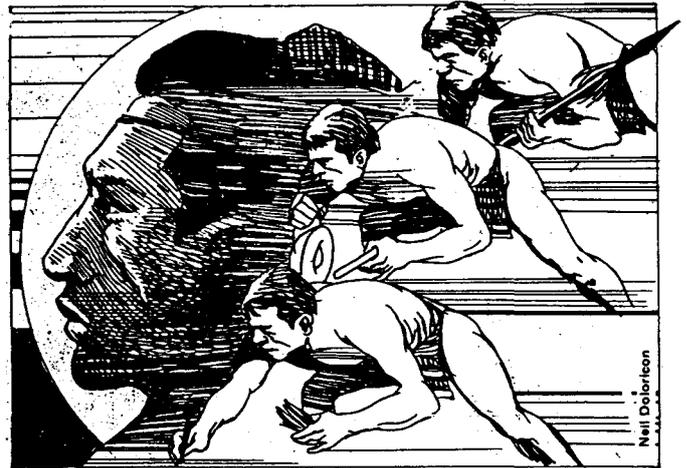
Had the dam been erected, rice terraces, homes, hunting and burial grounds in the highland provinces of Kalinga-Apayao and Mountain Province in northern Philippines would have gone under water in exchange for megawatts of electricity for the far-away cities.

To many Cordillerans and advocates of indigenous peoples' rights, Dulag's April 24, 1981 assassination and the ensuing protests against the dam and militarization signified, not only the defense of their ancestral land, but also a defense of a whole way of life.

Dulag stressed, "land is life" because it is the land, with all its natural wealth, on which humankind and other living things depend for sustenance and survival. "The most precious thing to man is life." If the land, in which man depends for his survival, is threatened, "it is an honor and sacred duty to resist."

While 'sustainable development' or 'susdev' and 'ecological stability' were not yet the jargons of the day when Dulag confronted development projects; they had long been a way of life to tribal Filipinos who regard as sacred the rivers, mountains, trees and other natural wealth.

Some say 'susdev' is, "providing for the needs of the present without jeopardizing the needs of the future."



The Green Forum, a nationwide environmental coalition, defines 'susdev' more broadly: "It is a development course that does not result in the wholesale, irreversible destruction of the environment, that does not deplete economic resources, that does not intensify social inequalities to a point where violence becomes the one attractive solution."

Undoubtedly, the advocacy of sustainable development is a legacy from the martyrdom of the likes of Macli-ing Dulag and from the militancy of the Tinggians of Abra province (also in the Cordillera) who, in the 1970s, defended their ancestral domain from being ravaged by the paper milling firm Cellophil.

Ten years after Macli-ing Dulag's death, the Cordillerans' search for eventual recognition and respect for their right to their ancestral domain continues.

Various tribal and non-government organizations in the region, for example, are currently lobbying for the passage into law of bills pending in both chambers of Congress which propose the recognition of tribal Filipinos' right to their ancestral domain.

If passed, the Senate bill (by Senator Joseph Estrada) and the House bill (by Representative William Claver) will finally give tribal Filipinos legal and political clout to protect and develop their ancestral domain and resources according to their customary laws and culture.



## PROFILE: BAYAN

### BAGONG ALYANSANG MAKABAYAN

BAYAN held its founding Congress in Manila on 4-5 May 1985. The staunch nationalist Senator Lorenzo Tañada was elected its first Chairperson. Senator Ambrosio Padilla became its first President and the famous youth mass leader, Lean Alejandro, its first Secretary General. During this period, BAYAN spearheaded the people's fight against the Marcos dictatorship.

#### BACKGROUND

In the early months of 1985, it was apparent that the people's movement in the Philippines was heading for new heights. After years of painstaking education and organizing work, people's organizations were burgeoning, taking up rightful causes, and mobilizing in large numbers against a government that was increasingly unpopular, dictatorial and oppressive. On such fertile ground BAYAN was formed.

The formation of BAYAN was in answer to the imperative of advancing the people's movement for national freedom and democracy, people's empowerment and the development of alternatives. BAYAN aims to consolidate the organized strength of these people's organizations. It has gradually built a national network anchored on grassroots membership that is a potent force in advancing democratic rights, civil liberties, people's welfare and empowerment and self determination as a nation.

In May 1985, BAYAN was launched with representatives from more than two hundred organizations of different persuasions, from the major provinces, declaring their unity and adherence to the principles which BAYAN stands for.

#### WHAT IS BAYAN?

BAYAN means New Patriotic Alliance. It is a multi-sectoral political federation of popular organizations which are not political parties. BAYAN stands for democracy, nationalism and sovereignty, for the welfare of all and not privileges for the few, and for the unity of the nation while preserving ethnic, religious, cultural and ideological diversity.

#### BAYAN'S PRINCIPLES AND VISION

During its Fourth National Congress in June 1990, BAYAN declared and affirmed its commitment to be a people's center and to be among those at the forefront of the Filipino people's continuing struggles guided by the principles and vision that has forged its members together.

BAYAN's five main principles:

1. People's Basic Rights
2. People's Empowerment and People's Democracy
3. National Economic Emancipation and Progress
4. National Unity and National Sovereignty
5. World Justice and Peace.

BAYAN's vision of the Philippines:

- a. National Development Towards Economic independence, self-reliance and prosperity for the People
- b. Promotion of the People's Rights
- c. National Sovereignty and Independence
- d. Democratic Coalition Government

#### BAYAN'S ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE AND MEMBERSHIP

BAYAN is a federation of hundreds of grassroots organizations all over the Philippines comprising about 2.5 million individuals. The national organizations of workers, farmers, urban poor, youth and students, teachers, women and tribal Filipinos account for the largest in membership. Church workers, professionals, prominent personalities and nationalist businessmen are also significant parts of the BAYAN federation.

The basic unit of BAYAN is the Chapter. The highest policy making body is the General Assembly which meets in

Congress every two years. BAYAN's National Council meets at least twice a year and is its most broadly representative body other than the General Assembly. There are three Commissions in BAYAN: Popular Struggles, Political Relations, and Policy Studies. The General Secretariat runs the day-to-day operations and the National Office. BAYAN is governed by a Presidium of five persons headed by the Chairperson.

**BAYAN's ELECTED NATIONAL OFFICERS**  
**(1990-1992)**

- Chairperson..... Ms. Nelia Sancho, Coordinator, Asian Women Human Rights Commission, Former Secretary General, GABRIELA
- President..... Ms. Loretta Ann Rosales, Board Member, Freedom from Debt Coalition
- President..... Mr. Crispin Beltran, Chairperson, Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU)
- President..... Mr. Jaime Tadeo, Chairperson, Kilusang Magbubukid sa Pilipinas (KMP)
- President..... Atty Jose Suarez, International Lawyer and Chairperson, BAYAN-Central Luzon
- Secretary-General... Ms. Lidinya Nacpil-Alejandro, Steering Committee Member, ABAKADA
- Deputy Secretary-General... Atty Jose Virgilio Bautista, Standing Committee Member, People's Caucus
- Deputy Secretary-General... Mr. Nathaniel Santiago, Chairperson, League of Filipino Students (LFS)
- Treasurer..... Mr. Demetrio Mendoza
- Director, Popular Struggles Commission..... Mr. Amante N. Jimenez, Jr., Student Regent, UP Board of Regents
- Director, Political Relations Commission..... Councilman Noel Medina, Chairperson, KADENA
- Director, Policy Studies Commission..... Mr. Danilo Vizmanos, Chairperson, SELDA

**BAYAN's PROGRAM OF ACTION/APPROACHES**

BAYAN serves as the national campaign center for its member organizations. It will adopt all forms of non-violent struggles and campaigns on a nationwide scale such as massive rallies, demonstrations, marches, general strikes, welgang bayan and other forms of protest.

BAYAN encourages participation and/or supports progressive candidates in elections when they contribute to the advancement of the people's struggle for sovereignty and for their rights and welfare. It develops a progressive and mass-oriented approach to elections based on issues and programs, not personalities and patronage.

**BAYAN MEMBER NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

- Labor.....Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU)
- Peasants.....Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP)
- Education.....Alliance of Concerned Teachers (ACT)
- Youth/Students...League of Filipino Students (LFS)  
Kabataan Para sa Demokrasya at Nasyonalismo (KADENA)  
Student Christian Movement (SCM)
- Women.....GABRIELA
- Health.....Health Alliance for Democracy (HEAD)
- Urban Poor.....Kongreso ng Pagkakaisa ng Maralitang Taga-Lungsod (KPML)
- Church.....Ecumenical Forum for Church Response (EFCR)
- Human Rights....Ecumenical Movement for Justice and Peace (EMJP)
- Fisherfolk.....Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas (PAMALAKAYA)
- Scientists.....Scientists, Technologists, Engineers for the People (STEP)
- Professionals...Samahan ng mga Gitnang Pwersa (SAGIP)



**BAYAN HAS REGIONAL AND PROVINCIAL CHAPTERS IN:**

- Central Luzon • Panay • Bacolod • Iligan
- Davao • Cordillera • Bicol • Southern Tagalog • Metro Manila

**BAYAN's 1991 INTERNATIONAL PROJECT**

To explain and promote the importance of the International Peace Festival in the Philippines, 4-17 September 1991, a BAYAN speaking tour will travel to seven major cities in Australia.

**BAYAN TOUR OF AUSTRALIA '91**  
**SPEAKER: Fr. Albert Suatengco**

- July 7 - 11 Melbourne
- 12 - 15 Adelaide
- 16 - 19 Alice Springs
- 20 - 25 Perth
- 26 - 30 Brisbane
- 31 - Aug 1 Canberra
- 2 - 9 Sydney



## FILIPINO LABOUR — EXPORTED LIKE A CASH CROP

PART II — Continued from the March/April issue

### EASE UNEMPLOYMENT

Far from addressing the unemployment and underemployment problems of the country, labor export has resulted in a massive "brain and brawn drain". Instead of caring for our sick, we see the out-migration of doctors and nurses. Instead of acquiring additional skills, we are witnessing a de-skilling process. We now have a huge deficit of teachers because they are overseas working as domestic helpers. Instead of building the Philippine economy, we are witnessing the cream of our labor force; skilled, educated and with years of working experience, using their energies overseas to expand foreign economies while the Philippines bears the social cost of their education and training.

Even if the overseas workers pour more than a billion dollars a year into the economy, the potential application of these resources is negated by the government's policy of honouring all debts. The government is just going through the vicious cycle of obtaining new loans to pay old loans with accumulated interests.



The Philippine debt service burden averaged US\$3.3 billion per year from 1986 to 1988. The overseas workers' annual average remittance of US\$787 million for the same period, is equivalent to 23.85% of the annual debt service burden. This is where the government is spending the remittances of the overseas Filipinos. Thus, while Filipinos overseas contribute heavily

to the government coffers and accumulated foreign exchange, its positive impact on the Philippine economy is being defeated by the government's debt policy and import dependent economy.

On the sum totality of things, massive labour export under present government policies becomes an exercise in futility. The Filipino overseas workers, hailed as the country's "bagong bayani" (new heroes), in fact, bear the burden of the country's foreign debt.

### PROFILE OF OVERSEAS FILIPINOS

The social cost of massive overseas migration is a price too high to pay. Not a few families have fallen apart. Not a few bear the pain and humiliation of physical and sexual abuse. And not a few have lost their lives and their loved ones.

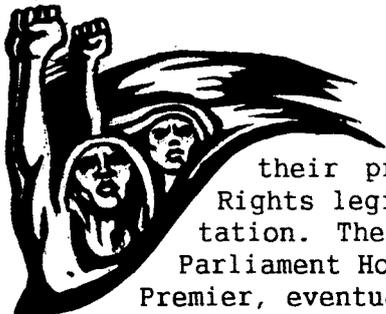
We have now become, like the Israelites of old and the Palestinians, a modern day Diaspora. And, with no end in sight for our country's political and economic problems, the national hemorrhage of our people has just begun.

By overseas Filipinos we mean not only those who work in Saudi Arabia, Hong Kong or Japan. By our own definition, overseas Filipinos refers to all those working temporarily or permanently overseas, of whatever citizenship, but who, in the main, still maintain a strong sense of national identification with the Philippines.

Overseas Filipinos is a generic and all-encompassing term. Included in this broad category are the immigrants, undocumented workers, land and sea-based overseas contract workers, businessmen, scholars, "mail-order-brides", political refugees and other smaller sub-categories. (Contd on page 7 >)



# LAND RIGHTS!



On Thursday, May 23rd 1991, Queensland Aborigines voiced their protest against the Goss government's attempt to rush Land Rights legislation through the State Parliament without adequate consultation. The rallyists were militant and dignified as they marched to Parliament House, increasing in number to about 400. Mr. Goss, the Qld ALP Premier, eventually agreed to see a delegation.

Once again, the politicians refused to address the question of Social Justice and Human Rights of the most dispossessed, the urban Aborigines, whose lands and traditional identities have been stolen from them by colonialism. Premier Goss said to a TV crew, "the government will not give in to the standover tactics of a rabble". As we go to print, Queensland Aborigines are planning further protest actions to attract attention to their situation and gain even wider support.

We are proud to have sent the following statement of solidarity to the Aboriginal Tent Embassy in Queens Park: "Under the guise of reconciliation, the current beneficiaries of the Anglo ascendancy continue Australia's racist history of anti-Aborigine legislation. Laws which consign urban Aborigines to the cultural and spiritual melting pot of 'One Australia' as though they are 'settlers' in their own land, perpetuate genocide. The Philippines Australia Solidarity Group (Queensland) supports the struggle of Aborigines for self-determination and Land Rights in the same way that we support the struggle of the Filipino peoples for sovereignty, land reform and recognition of indigenous ancestral domain."

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## JOIN PASG OR SUBSCRIBE TO ITS PUBLICATIONS

ATTENTION: PASG Co-ordinator, P.O. Box 174, St. Lucia 4067 Qld.

- I would like to:     have more information about PASG.     make a donation of \$..... for solidarity work.  
 join PASG (including a one year subscription to the PASG Qld. Newsletter and Philippines Issues). I enclose \$20.  
 receive a one year subscription to the PASG Qld. Newsletter and Philippines Issues. I enclose payment of \$15.

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ADDRESS .....

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