

Philippine Left: A Socialist Publication for our Period

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Below is a concept paper of a socialist magazine which will present in-depth treatment of issues and the audience are activists, leaders of local mass organizations and the intelligentsia here and abroad. This should complement the *Sosyalista* newspaper which is a mass paper for the working class and the rest of the working people.

We start from the proposition that the task of a socialist publication like any other socialist undertaking is not only to understand the world but to change it. Change is fundamentally understood as the process of liberating the working class and peoples from the shackles of the capitalist order and all other oppressive systems which co-exists with it and benefits or buttresses it like the feudal-autocratic enclaves and patriarchy.

The socialist publication that we want to set up will not rest with critiquing Philippine society and its relations with the entire world, with unravelling its contradictions. It will identify the possibilities and prospects these contradictions offer as well as propose creative courses of action. It will be a publication of praxis for the socialist and democratic struggles of the Philippine working class and peoples in solidarity with the whole of the working humankind.

In light of the regime change which the May 2010 elections have brought about, the socialist publication will seek answers on how the socialist and the progressive movement can successfully challenge the new regime's attempt to handle the crisis of the ruling system in the country towards consolidating bourgeois class rule and strengthening the Philippine State, and by doing so, pose the possibility of winning power for the working people of the country.

We look at this publication as an additional initiative to other projects which have come out from or still to be conceived by other formations in the Left community. As such, we should always look for areas of complementation and cooperation with these initiatives without diminishing the importance of active discourses and debates with them on crucial points of historical analysis, line setting and courses of action to take.

This publication itself will also be a lively venue of discourses and debates

from among its contributors and the readership. Through this exercise, we will always seek to achieve full clarity of perspectives and agreement in common line and course of action as much as possible.

This publication will be in the form of a magazine, both online and print. It will provide in-depth treatment of the major issues confronting the politics, economy, culture and society of the country and international developments which impact on them. The articles will be reasonably of such length as necessary to deliver their point and will be reader friendly in terms of language and writing style. The publication is bi-lingual, Pilipino and English.

The target readership includes national and local leaders of Left and progressive organizations, groups and other formations and friendly leaders, advocates, writers, scholars and thinkers in the academe, government institutions, the media, the Churches, the business community and those in the foreign communities. The publication will also seek out Filipino and international readership abroad. The circulation should be based on an ever-expanding number of regular subscribers.
