

## **PLM Solidarity with the French Resistance**

Written by Partido Lakas ng Masa

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### **PLM Solidarity Statement with the French Resistance**

Partido Lakas ng Masa congratulates the French workers and people who are staging crippling strikes, setting up barricades and holding widespread marches against recent austerity measures being planned by the French government. The resistance of the striking oil-workers, truckers, bus drivers, railwaymen, teachers, postmen, printers and dockers was joined by students and schoolchildren all over France. The protests, which started in May, is still going on and has already mobilized millions of people in Paris and various parts of the country. Twice on October 12 and October 19, more than 3.5 million people joined the general strike and took to the streets in protest.

Partido Lakas ng Masa commends the blockade tactics being employed by the French unions and workers to paralyze oil refineries and bring the economy to a standstill. The paralysis is clearly aimed at defeating the plot of the Sarkozy government to implement the infamous "pension reform" which will dramatically reduce the rights of workers to access pension. The reform is on top of recent laws that increase the retirement age from 60 to 62 years of age and increase the period of time workers must work to receive a full pension.

The whole Europe is now in turmoil as capitalist governments resort to further austerity cuts that will dismantle remaining social welfare benefits. Massive austerity cuts which affect pensions and jobs of workers have been imposed in Greece and Portugal just a few months ago. France is now starting to implement it. Yesterday, the British government declared they are doing the same to save the banks and the big transnational firms from collapsing.

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Through strikes, barricades, blockades, and marches – the French workers and people have shown the way how to resist the capitalist governments' scheme to take apart the remaining welfare benefits in Europe. We are confident that the working class masses everywhere will take their cue from the French resistance.

Sonny Melencio

Chairperson, PLM

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