



# MAKABAYAN

[Manggagawa para sa Kalayaan ng Bayan - Workers for People's Liberation]

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**Press Release**

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## **Union Cries Foul over the Sudden Layoff of 400 workers at Smart Company**

**Angeles City, Pampanga** – “This is a complete disregard to the legal processes and disrespect to the union”.

This was the statement of Ludy Hamor over the sudden announcement of the layoff of more than four hundred (400) workers by Smart Shirt Phils. Inc., - a garment factory operating in **Clark Free Port and Economic Zone**, last May 27, 2010.

Hamor narrated that, Thursday morning – after announcing the names of terminated workers, the management immediately herded them to a corner, ID’s were confiscated and were prohibited to talk to co-workers.

Ludy Hamor the union President said, *“Bakit ayaw nyo sila ipakausap sa amin MARTIAL LAW NA BA? (Why do you prohibit us from talking with them, is there Martial Law?)”*, then the management allowed the union officers to talk with some of the affected workers and discover that among the terminated were three (3) active officers, ten (10) shop stewards and a plenty line of council members affected by laid off.

According to Hamor the management’s act shows its ulterior motive to ease out some officers and union leaders on the ground leaving them no choice but to file a complaint before the Region III - National Conciliation and Mediation Board (NCMB-DOLE) Office.

“Without malicious intent the management must follow the processes provided by law and squarely face the union to find ways to resolve conflicts. We are always open for discussion”. Hamor quipped.

According to the union in order to eliminate doubt – the management and the union must come to an agreement such as (1) that in an event the company is back to its normal operation, all affected workers must be automatically recalled as regular employee; (2) the company must open for voluntary resignation to fill up or replace the numbers of those affected workers who still want to work.

“These conditions not only work for the affected workers but for the morale of those who will stay working with the company. This is not for us – this is primarily for the company. Anyway if they don’t – they will reap the result of their making, Hamor concluded”.

The NCMB-DOLE Region III scheduled a hearing today wherein terminated workers will participate to air their grievances and demands.

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