



November 4, 2015

Yolanda Housing Construction on Track: NHA

The government infrastructure projects in areas hit by Typhoon Yolanda on November 8, 2013 are on track. With the continuous release of funds for the construction of permanent shelters for Typhoon Yolanda families, the National Housing Authority (NHA) is able to deliver a total of 12,635 ready for occupancy housing units and 8,820 more housing units to be completed before the end of 2015.

According to Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC) Chair Atty. Chito M. Cruz, "To better respond to the housing needs of the calamity victims, particularly those affected by Typhoon Yolanda, NHA, with the help of DPWH, has developed standard disaster-resilient housing designed to withstand typhoon winds of 250kph. This is in compliance with the instruction of President Aquino to Build Back Better communities for our beneficiaries."

The said housing units constructed by the NHA is in line with the build back better principle. After the onslaught of Typhoon Yolanda, housing needs for the Visayas' 14 provinces in the six (6) regions reached 205,128 housing units, with funding requirement of Php 61.252 Billion.

As of 30 October 2015, the total fund released for the resettlement site project was Php 26.996 Billion to fund 92,554 housing units. Of these units, 17,641 units have been completed.

The NHA implemented housing projects are complete with community facilities and water and power lines. For Yolanda housing sites, the NHA has allocated space for school buildings, tricycle terminals, police outpost, Materials Recovery Facility (MRF), health center and covered basketball court cum multi-purpose center. Housing units will have individual septic tanks/vault, and has a minimum lot size of

40 square meters, while loftable row house will measure 22 square meters to follow the loftable resilient housing design.

Amidst the immediate needs for permanent shelter for typhoon survivors, the government, especially the NHA is faced with major challenges in implementing the housing component for the Yolanda rehabilitation. NHA General Manager Atty. Sinforoso R. Pagunsan explained, “The lack of available lands in safe zones, legal concerns on titling properties, issuances of permits/clearances, availability of raw materials and inclement weather were the hindering factors we had to face in all 14 provinces.”

Typhoon Yolanda (International name: “Haiyan”) ravaged the Visayas Region with maximum sustained winds of 315 kph, displaced 60,000 families and damaged approximately Php 89,598,068,634.88-worth of infrastructures, social, productive, and cross-sectoral resources.