

NHA is 40

A million homes for the Filipino family. On October 15, 2015, the National Housing Authority will mark its four decades of public service to the homeless Filipino families. With a total of 1,053,070 families provided with housing units nationwide, the Authority throughout its 40 years prioritized the housing needs of informal settler families (ISFs), displaced communities in conflict areas, calamity survivors and indigenous groups.

Anchored on the theme, “Sama-Sama, Tulung-tulong, Programang Pabahay Ating Isulong”, the NHA will celebrate this milestone in a month-long event, highlighting the glorious past and present accomplishments of the current Administration in the housing sector. Its forty years of providing safe, decent and affordable dwelling units will be presented in a narrative of photographs depicting the plight of ISFs decades back and how the NHA developed, improvised and replicated successful housing strategies to rebuild illegal settlements to “new villages” and provide access for the families to acquire homes from different housing options extended by the government.

Corollary to this, President Benigno Simeon Aquino III will be the Guest of Honor during the Gawad Parangal event at the Crossroad Center, Quezon City. He will grace the recognition and honoring of NHA’s partners in its housing endeavors and award the winner with plaque of participation and cash prizes. The Gawad Parangal recognizes the efforts of organizations and groups of people who took part in the implementation of the government’s housing program and have aided former ISFs to become organized and empowered People’s Organizations (POs). Through the active participation of homeowners association, Local Government Units (LGUs), and non-government organizations (NGOs), NHA’s relocation and resettlement processes were fast tracked and the convergence of agencies and its resources were maximized. In this event, the Best Community, Most Outstanding Partner and recognition of past General Managers will be conferred.

To date, the NHA is vigorously implementing the five-year housing program for the Metro Manila ISFs living along danger zones, waterways, *esteros* and creeks. So far, some 62,087 families out of the 104,219 families have been resettled to their new units in 2 to 5 storeys Low-Rise Buildings (LRBs) constructed within their city of origin (in-city housing within NCR) while those who opted to move in off-city sites chose the housing units constructed in Bulacan, Cavite, Laguna and Rizal.

Under the PNOY Administration, the NHA has been undertaking his flagship program for the uniformed men and women of the country and for this, the AFP/PNP Housing Program was established to provide housing for the low-salaried members of the AFP and PNP, Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP), Bureau of Fire (BOF) and Bureau of Corrections (BuCor). A total of 57,328 units have been completed to date in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao.

True to its mandate, the NHA continuously extends assistance to calamity victims through the provision of house and lot packages or housing materials assistance (HOMA). Furthermore, ISFs affected by infrastructure projects in Metro Manila, LGU resettlement assistance, and settlements upgrading programs are also being undertaken by the Authority.

Under the leadership of former NHA General Manager Atty. Chito M. Cruz, now Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC) Chairman, the NHA reached its highest production accomplishment in the number of units constructed and families relocated. His former Chief-of-Staff Atty. Sinforoso R. Pagunsan is now the new NHA General Manager.