

NHA Signs MOU with UN Habitat

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between the National Housing Authority (NHA) and the United Nations Human Settlement Programme (UN Habitat) as an initial step to the pilot implementation of the NHA's Community-Based Shelter and Livelihood (CBSL) Program, last December 17 at the NHA Board Room.

The MOU was signed by Atty. Sinforoso R. Pagunsan, NHA General Manager, and Mr. Christopher E. Rollo, Country Programme Manager of UN Habitat.

"It is an honor and privilege to partner with government in serving the people affected by Typhoon Yolanda, to help fast track the delivery of housing services to the communities," said Mr. Rollo. He congratulated the "groundbreaking initiative" of NHA in recognizing the "power of the communities to help themselves recover from disaster and to achieve better lives."

The CBSL pilot implementation shall cover the Municipalities of Carles, Concepcion, and Estancia all in Iloilo Province. The program aims to strengthen the partnership among stakeholders, particularly the active involvement of the community associations, in all areas of housing development and estate management.

"We believe in empowering the community," said Atty. Chito M. Cruz, Chairman of the Housing and Urban and Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC). He would like to ensure the effective and efficient implementation of the CBSL, and if the program succeeded, NHA will launch the same in other areas.

Mr. Eusebio Jacinto, Jr., representative of National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC), added that the program can hopefully be institutionalized since "a lot of partners – international and local – are willing to be part of a similar program initiative."

Furthermore, Ms. Margarita Songco, Deputy Director General of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), commended the advocacy on the stakeholders' participation. The signing was witnessed by Atty. Cruz, DDG Songco, Froilan R. Kampitan, NHA Assistant General Manager, and Mr. Jacinto.

The CBSL Program is recently approved by the NHA Board of Directors to augment the existing housing program already in place in the Visayas Region.