



NATIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY
Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City

NHA Goes Legal and Adherence to the Rule of Law

The National Housing Authority (NHA) is firm to proceed legally with the eviction of unauthorized occupants of government housing units.

This is the stand of NHA after the Kalipunan ng Damayang Mahihirap (KADAMAY) on March 8, 2017 illegally occupied some 3,500 housing units in seven (7) NHA project sites in Bulacan. Following the pronouncement of President Rodrigo R. Duterte urging the urban poor group to leave the government housing projects, the NHA on March 20, 2017, Monday, will issue eviction notices to KADAMAY members to voluntarily vacate the said housing units within seven (7) days upon receipt of notice.

As of March 20, 2017, a total of 5,262 units from Pandi and San Jose del Monte Resettlement Sites were occupied by KADAMAY members. These housing units are earmarked for low-salaried uniformed personnel of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, Philippine National Police, Bureau of Fire Protection, Bureau of Jail Management and Penology and Metro Manila Informal Settler Families (ISFs) living along danger zones and waterways. In effect, their illegal occupation deprives the intended awardees of their right to government housing assistance.

Moreover, the Authority emphasized that it will exhaust all legal and peaceful means to solve this issue. Dialogues and negotiations are ongoing. Let it be as a matter of declaration, we

will never allow any mob rule and such act has no place in a civilized society.

Reminding the KADAMAY, President Rodrigo R. Duterte said during his Malacañang press conference, “If you want to ignore the law, you cannot do that. I will force the issue with eviction. *Tatal, kung gusto man ninyo, huwag mo lang akong palagay sa alanganin,*” Duterte said. Furthermore, he assured the urban poor group that, “There is enough money now to go around. *May pera ang gobyerno,* I can give some but not all, but you will have if you want. *Idaan natin sa dayalogo,*” he said.

NHA General Manager Marcelino P. Escalada Jr., reiterated, “The NHA will come up with housing programs and projects appropriate to their needs with necessary budget from the National Government and we will advocate and aggressively pursue this for the funding in 2018 and beyond.”

He also noted that the relocation of qualified housing beneficiaries to the unoccupied housing units is scheduled this summer break to accommodate the school-aged children of families and their enrollment to their new local schools. “We ask them to vacate the units and follow the housing procedures like answering the Housing Information Form (HIF), screening process and awarding/beneficiary selection,” GM Escalada urged the occupants.

To date, there are 324 KADAMAY members who have signed up for the Housing Information Form and the dialogue with KADAMAY continues. As HUDCC Chair Leoncio B. Evasco, Jr. states, “We are sad it happened this way, yet let this be a reminder to government to act now and provide housing to those who need it the most”.

By: National Housing Authority