

Providing Convenient Homes for “Pablo” Survivors

Having a new home is heaven for the survivor-families who suffered the brunt of typhoon Pablo four years ago. Despite the fact that it has been three years since the disaster, sorrow and revulsion are still felt by these individuals.

In September 2013, the National Government, Local Government and private organizations worked hand in hand to help these less fortunate families own a new home. As many 5,276 (part of the 17, 480 that NHA had been assigned to construct) houses in four (4) separate places in Compostela Valley were built to accommodate the shelter needs of the victims. To date, New Bataan Project 2 in Barangay Andap, New Bataan, Compostela Valley holds 315 housing units; New Bataan Project 1 in Barangay San Roque, New Bataan has 2,360 housing units completed in 2014; San Antonio Village, Barangay Maparat, Compostela Completed the 2,500 housing units in December 2014; and, Vida Vista III, Barangay New Visayas, Montevista has 1,101 housing units. Each of these house measures 60 square meters each, amounting to a Php 220,000 house and lot package.

Securing the safety and comfort of the recipients of these housing facilities are the NHA, in coordination with the Provincial Inter-Agency Committee (ProVIAC), and Local Government Units. The Regional Project Monitoring Committee-National Economic Development Authority (RPMC-NEDA) concentrates on monitoring and evaluating these projects periodically.

The team conducts thorough examination and investigation thus, giving great attention to every detail (masonry, plumbing, electrical, and other works) to ascertain the durability and safety of these housing units. “...Building contractors can build a durable concrete house out of a P220,000 budget and will still have their task religiously”, NHA GM Marcelino P. Escalada Jr. conveyed. In monitoring the projects, minor and significant modifications are recommended to meet the standards prescribed in the contract between the government and private building contractors. The team has reiterated that the families shall have their share to complement the efforts of the government. Activities such as cleanliness and beautification, drainage maintenance, and community vegetable gardening were organized and routinely undertaken by the residents in the community.

NHA officials have accentuated the positive aspect of taking good care of these new homes as these will be passed on the beneficiaries’ children and grandchildren.