

300 INFORMAL SETTLERS LIVING IN PASAY WATERWAYS ACQUIRE OWN LOTS



FIRST STEP OUT OF POVERTY. Social Housing Finance Corporation (SHFC) President Ma. Ana Oliveros, Manila Archbishop Luis Antonio Cardinal Tagle and other Pasay City local officials graced the groundbreaking ceremony of a 5-storey housing project under SHFC's High Density Housing (HDH) program. The said project will house 65 informal settler families (ISFs) living along the waterways in Malibay, Pasay.

Sixty five informal settler families (ISFs) belonging to St. Hannibal Homeowners Association (HOA) Phase 17 or at least 300 individuals will soon experience living in safe and decent homes following the acquisition of an 800-square meter relocation site in Malibay, Pasay, through a loan under the Social Housing Finance Corporation's (SHFC) High Density Housing Program (HDH) amounting to P29.2 million.

A groundbreaking ceremony was held to signal the next phase of the project, which is the construction of a 5-storey building that will serve as home to the beneficiaries who are currently living along the waterways of Tripa de Gallina and Maricaban creek in Pasay.

HDH is SHFC's participation to the P50B ISF housing project of the Aquino administration, which aims to provide safer housing to ISFs in the National Capital Region who are living in danger zones.

HDH offers cost-effective, near site, in-city or near-city relocation in high density facilities or multi-storey buildings as an urban development strategy adopting the Community Mortgage Program's (CMP) community-driven approach.

St. Hannibal Phase 17 HOA President Orestes Idanan recalled the days when he used to worry about his family's safety whenever calamities like storm and flood strike Metro Manila. He stressed that living in a danger zone such as waterways is like "playing hide and seek with danger" especially when floodwaters reach neck-deep. But those incidents will soon be over as the community is on their way towards shelter security. The HOA has an ongoing loan application to SHFC that will be used for the construction of a 5-storey, 65-unit housing project in the said land property.

The groundbreaking ceremony was attended by SHFC President Ma. Ana Oliveros, Manila Archbishop Luis Antonio Cardinal Tagle, who initiated the blessing of

the property, Pasay City representative Emmie Calixto, Pasay City mayor Tony Calixto and some barangay officials.

In her message, Oliveros said that the occasion is a "demonstration of success on the issue of housing rights for the poor." She also wished that the construction of the actual housing units will begin at the soonest possible time. Cardinal Tagle, on the other hand, noted that the groundbreaking ceremony is the community's first vital step out of poverty.

The event was in line with the 10th founding anniversary of the St. Hannibal Empowerment Center (SHEC) - one of the NGO partners and community mobilizers of SHFC. The occasion was formally closed through a mass officiated by Cardinal Tagle, himself.

SHFC is the lead agency providing Flexible, Affordable, Innovative and Responsive shelter financing solutions to underprivileged communities. For more info, call (+632) 750-6346 loc. 821 or visit our website www.shfcph.com.