



OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF PROJECT MASANTOLENOS

ONE VISION, ONE GOAL, ONE TEAM

Ing Bunga Ning Balen

VOLUME 3 ISSUE 4

DECEMBER 2011

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Masantolenos celebrate as construction begins

From Php 1.2 million, market value of land zooms to Php 30 million

After four years of planning, fundraising and defying allegations of broken promises and let downs from detractors because of its delay, the first phase of the construction of the Php 15 million multipurpose hall has finally begun, thanks to its biggest donor so far- the National Housing Authority (NHA).

According to the latest estimates by the bankers, after the Php 3.5 million cost of back-filling, the present market value of the land alone is appraised to be Php 30 million from a purchase of Php 1.2 million.

NHA doled out a staggering PHP 8 million for the completion of the first phase of the multipurpose hall.

The donation was made nearly two years ago but its release was delayed by the transition of government from Pres.



BUILDING THE MASANTOL DREAM. The construction of the very first and most expensive multipurpose hall in Masantol begins.

Gloria Arroyo to Pres. Noynoy Aquino.

“Our project has gone through a lot of challenges but our determination prevailed,” said Engr. Dingo Bonifacio, the project chairman.

“The construction has been long-overdue, actually. On March 2010, then NHA General Manager Rico Laxa approved

and signed a Memorandum of Agreement under Resolution No. 5279 for the construction of the first phase of the Masantol Multipurpose Hall which will also serve as an evacuation center. There was even a time when we already celebrated, lowered our shovels into the ground and
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Project Masantolenos receives P8 million from NHA

National Housing Authority (NHA) finally awarded its P8 million pledged donation to the Project Masantolenos for the building of Masantol Multipurpose Hall on March 2010.

Through the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between Project

Masantolenos (PM), represented by the Municipal Government of Masantol and the National Housing Authority, P8 million subsidy was awarded to the Project Masantolenos to cover the additional funding requirements for the construction of the multipurpose hall cum evacuation center

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MOA SIGNING. Mayor Peter B. Flores signs the Memorandum of Agreement with NHA for the P8 million subsidy.

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Project Masantolenos receives P8 million from...

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project under the NHA’s Resettlement Assistance Program to Local Government Units.

Under said MOA, Project Masantolenos, through the Municipality of Masantol & NHA mutually agree to pool their resources for purposes of undertaking the construction of the multipurpose hall in accordance with the approved project plans, cost estimates and specifications. This is the very reason why the design was modified to suit the specifications required by the NHA.

“We did minor changes on the design to comply with the NHA requirements. NHA’s main concern is the evacuation part of the project. But we are told that upon the completion of this phase, we are free to make

improvements,” the mayor detailed.

NHA’s donation was no easy money on the part of Project Masantolenos. The global recession motivated the group to be more resourceful because Masantolenos abroad are hardly hit by the recession, thus less donations. Mayor Flores suggested to the Project Masantolenos officers that they seek assistance from the NHA.

On April 21, 2008, Mayor Flores formalized the request by writing to the then NHA general manager, Rico Laxa, who himself is a Kapampangan, a native of our sister-town Macabebe.

“I am grateful to GM Laxa for immediately responding to our request. It was not an easy process, we did several proposals, designs and persuasions to finally convince

them that we need the project,” said the mayor.

“I want to tell our fellow Masantolenos that I am grateful for their contribution, from the biggest to the smallest donation—thank you very much, but we are just half way there. The total cost of the project amounts to P15.143 million based on the plans and detailed cost estimates. Eya pa kayabe ka rin itang penyali tamu king lote, soil test at penambak tamu. I know that in your heart of hearts, suportan ye ing kekatamung proyekto. We have sacrificed a lot for this project but it is paying off. Ipagpatuluy taya pu ing inumpisan tamu at malapit ta na pu. King lugud ning Apung Ginu akabyusan taya ini. Dakal ku pa pung pwedeng lapitan at adwanan saup pero sana pu saupan yu ku naman king pamaglapit karing cabalen tamung ating mayap a pusu na sumaup din king kekatamung proyekto” ended Mayor Flores

Masantolenos celebrate as construction...

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broke ground. Unfortunately, the supposed release of the funds was covered by the election ban. We couldn't have the donation yet. We had to wait after the election. It was indeed a tough period for us," continued Engr. Bonifacio.

Officers and members of Project Masantolenos held a groundbreaking ceremony on April 25, 2010 which should have signaled the start of the construction. Said groundbreaking was attended by Masantolenos from all walks of life. The ceremony also served as a fundraising event because sponsors were invited and asked to donate to the project. Everyone was optimistic that the multipurpose hall would be erected after three months of the approval of the funding until the organization was informed of its fate.

"As soon as President Noynoy Aquino took over the presidency, he appointed a new NHA general manager in the person of Atty. Chito M. Cruz. Though the grant was already approved, we practically needed to restart everything from the documentation to regular meetings with the NHA people. The documentation alone was laborious and painstaking, not to mention it was too costly," said Engr. Bonifacio.

Together with Mayor Peter Flores, Engr. Bonifacio would answer questions from NHA, prepare the documents and comply with their requirements.

"We needed to be patient and hopeful. Now, it paid off. While some friends were trying to figure out why despite our hard work,

good intention and prayers, we were always faced with challenges, I never ceased to believe that everything works for our good. The destructive typhoons made us realize that Masantol has to have an evacuation center, so we have added an evacuation center to the project. There are some changes in the design of the project because we have to comply with the requirements of the NHA. Moreover, aside from the original amenities like sports and recreational activities, social events, seminars, the hall will also serve as an evacuation center during calamities," said Engr. Dingo.

Another problem that the project had to hurdle was the economic recession. The effects of the global recession didn't exempt Project Masantolenos. In 2007, donations shrank because majority of the donors come from the United States, the very center of economic recession. The officers needed to think of other sources of funds. The annual souvenir program of the El Circulo Masantoleno Grand Ball proves to be helpful. Its proceeds augmented the budget for the exorbitant backfilling.

Mother Nature was not that sympathetic either. When Project Masantolenos raised enough funds for the
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HANDS-ON VISIONARY. Engr. Dingo Bonifacio, the brain behind Project Masantolenos inspects the site and gives instruction to the workers.

Masantolenos celebrate as construction begins

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typhoons hit Central Luzon that caused massive flooding and damage on agriculture and infrastructure. Experts advised to temporarily stop the backfilling.

"The proceeds of the annual EL Circulo Masantoleno Ball automatically go to the project. Every year we are able to raise money for the development of our site. It is just sad that the weather is not being friendly. We had to delay the backfilling because of the flood and broken roads and bridges. Moreover, ali masanting ing quality na ning gabun a panambak pag mumuran," said the project director.

Patience proved itself to be a virtue because on August 2011, NHA finally released the fund and the construction team headed by PELCO Dir. Che Guevarra, Engr. Caloy Aguilar, project's contractor and Architect Francisco Reyes, did the last minute touches on the plan. As the construction of the first phase was set to begin in September, two deadly typhoons struck the region. The amount of rainfall dumped in Pampanga and nearby areas was enough to damage the dams causing record-breaking flood. Masantol was hit by floods, power outages and impassable roads.

The construction team,

for the nth time, waited for the sunny days and on November 23 when everything was set for a full-blast construction of the first phase, the iconic Colgante Bridge collapsed.

"It's terrible that when all is set, another event that's beyond our control happened again. We need to find an alternative route to transport our equipment and materials to the project site," says Dir. Che Guevarra.

"The crane is such a huge equipment and it's so vital in our construction because it doesn't only transport the concrete columns for the building's foundation, it's also the very equipment used in installing said columns. My team has decided to build the toilets while we are awaiting for the repair of the Colgante bridge." added Engr. Aguilar.

From the reports of reliable sources, the municipal government of Apalit has already started the repair and rehabilitation of the collapsed bridge but the shortest possible time of completion will be six months, that is, without any delay or trouble.

The team behind the project has sat down to discuss the possible route to transport the needed concrete materials so the construction will resume. As of this writing, the team of Engr. Aguilar has already found an alternative route for the crane and other heavy equipment used for the construction. The crane is now at the site and now being used for transporting, lifting

"With all that's been happening, I just smile and deal with all these challenges," says Mayor Flores.

"The budget for the first phase is Php 9 million & NHA donated Php 8 million, so we still have to raise another Php 1 million for its completion," reminded Engr. Dingo Bonifacio.

"We used to be obsessed with the deadline because Masantolenos' opinion matters a lot to the organization and I know that when we make a promise, we will deliver. Unfortunately, there are events which are beyond our control so we just hope that you'd be patient with us. We are now starting the construction and very soon we will all enjoy the benefits of our hard labor." assured the mayor.

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GROUNDBREAKING PHOTOS



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CONSTRUCTION PHOTOS



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Masantolenos celebrate as...



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“I just want to let the people know that the Php 8 million donation from NHA wouldn't be given in cash. It's a progressive payment, that means, nung nanu mung mayari at masaling material na gamitan that concern the construction, iya mu ing bayaran na ning NHA,” explained Engr. Dingo.

“To those who are skeptical on the proper handling of the donation, we don't need to worry because NHA itself is very strict on the SOP of releasing the funds. Even I or other officers cannot 'touch' the money. Every single centavo is accounted for. And in every issue of our official newsletter, we always include a financial report for transparency, so the people may know where their hard-earned money are spent” continued the project chairman.

One more good news that the officers are bragging about is the latest estimate on the market value of the land site.

“Abanggit ku na nandin pero buri ku mung pabalu pasibayu ing kekatamung metung a maragul a achievement. Imagine from nothing, we raised money to purchase this site and what's amazing is that from Php 1.2 million plus Php 3.5 million na megastus king panambak, it's now worth P30 million,” shared Engr. Bonifacio.

It is also noteworthy that Project Masantolenos paid for the very costly soil test and other documentations needed during the application for the NHA assistance.

“Though we're happy with the millions of pesos given to the project, we are still counting on your help. This is a 15 million peso-project so we hope that you continue on your generosity and philanthropy. Our cabalens abroad will perpetually help, of course. The first phase is worth Php 9 million and it could even be higher because of the difficulty on the transport of materials brought by the inaccessibility of the Colgante & Calumpit bridge. As we all know, these two bridges collapsed, ” Dingo added.

“Aside from the publication of our newsletter, we are also planning on disseminating the information and status of our project through pamphlets and tarpaulins” declared the project chairman.

The Project Masantolenos team said that it will open all possible portals of communication so that Masantolenos from all over the world will be updated & well-informed. The group reiterated that the project continues to accept donations.

'Project Masantolenos' believes that young and old should be involved in the project because they are the beneficiaries of this project. In 2012, a Facebook account will be created for the Masantol Dream. Everything that Masantolenos have to know about the project will be right on their fingertip. All queries about the will be answered and it will be easier for the donors to contact the officers in case of pledges and donations. Photos of the progress and development of the project will be regularly posted so everyone will be updated on the project.



THE GROUP THAT MADE IT HAPPEN. Project Masantolenos officers during the groundbreaking ceremony.

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THE MASANTOLENOS MULTI-PURPOSE HALL FINANCIAL SUMMARY FEBRUARY 2006—MARCH 2010

CONTRIBUTIONS	USD \$	Peso
ECM 2006 - 2007 Pres Council/Officers/Advisers/Members	\$3,416.67	P164,000
ECM 2007- 2008 Pres Council/Officers/Advisers/Members	7,705.63	369,870
Mr. & Mrs. Dingo Bonifacio	1,377.71	66,130
	12,500.00	600,000.00
Masantolenos New Jersey	17,050.00	784,300.00
Masantolenos Los Angeles	3,250.00	149,500.00
Masantolenos San Francisco	2,690.00	123,740.00
Masantolenos Canada	1,700.00	75,650.00
Masantolenos Las Vegas Reunion	7,270.00	319,880.00
Masantolenos USA	<u>633.00</u>	<u>27,852.00</u>
	\$32,593.00	P1,480,922.00
Mr Bert Viray & CMES 2003-2004 Officers & Members	\$10,000.00	P 460,000.00
Mr. & Mrs. Dingo Bonifacio - Aug'09	10,000.00	460,000.00
Mr. & Mrs. Juanito Manalansan	425.53	20,000.00
Dr. Ety Bautista - Aug'09	200.00	9,200.00
Fiscal Justiano Manansala - Aug'09	100.00	4,600.00
Fortunato Ignacio - Aug'09	217.39	10,000.00
Fiscal Justiano Manansala - Jan'10	600.00	27,600.00
Masantol Municipal/Mayor Peter Flores - Jan'10	10,869.57	500,000.00
Mrs. Norie Manansala Blohm - Jan'10	<u>10,000.00</u>	<u>460,000.00</u>
	\$42,412.49	P1,951,400.00
ECM 2008 - 2009 Pres Council/Officers/Advisers/Members	\$ 6,831.35	P 314,242.00
ECM 2009 - 2010 Pres Council/Officers/Advisers/Members	7,468.02	343,529.00
ECM 2010 - 2011 Pres Council/Officers/Advisers/Members	<u>8,993.24</u>	<u>413,689.00</u>
TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS	\$110,798.10	P5,103,782.00
LOT ACQUISITION COST - 6,000 sq. meters	\$25,531.91	P1,200,000.00
EXPENSES		
Engineering & Architectural Design & Services	\$7,666.67	P 345,000.00
Lot Soil Test, Survey, Preparations, Barge Cost	5,403.33	243,150.00
Backfilling Access Road	16,225.81	754,500.00
Backfilling Main Lot	48,325.91	2,222,992.00
Fund Raising Expenses - May 2008	1,400.00	61,600.00
Admin/Documentation/Printing Services	458.94	20,423.00
Food/Drinks/Meeting Venue	750.68	33,405.38
Miscellaneous	<u>653.75</u>	<u>29,091.69</u>
	\$80,885.09	P3,710,162.07
TOTAL EXPENSES & LOT ACQUISITION COST	\$106,417.01	P4,910,162.07
TOTAL CASH ON HAND as of March 2010	\$ 4,381.09	P193,619.93

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**THE MASANTOLENOS MULTI-PURPOSE HALL
FINANCIAL SUMMARY
APRIL 2010 - DEC 2011**

CASH ON HAND as of March 2010	\$4,381.09	P	193,619.93
CONTRIBUTIONS (April 2010 - Dec 2011)			
Donations at the Ground Breaking - April 2010	\$1,373.86	P	60,450.00
Mr. Nestor B. Bonifacio - Feb 2011	5,000.00		216,500.00
Mrs. Norie Manansala Blohm - Feb 2011	700.00		30,100.00
Ms Beth Yumang - Feb 2011	300.00		12,900.00
Mr. Tony Santos - May 2011	300.00		13,050.00
Mr. & Mrs. Dingo Bonifacio - Nov 2011	1,162.79		50,000.00
Mr. & Mrs. Dingo Bonifacio - Dec 2011	1,149.43		50,000.00
ECM 2011 - 2012 Pres Council/Officers/Advisers	<u>4,549.35</u>		<u>195,622.00</u>
Total Contributions	\$14,535.43	P	628,622.00
TOTAL CASH (Beginning Cash + Contributions)	\$18,916.52		822,241.93
EXPENSES (April 2010 - Dec 2011)			
Ground Breaking Expenses (Foods and Drinks)	\$ 477.27	P	21,000.00
Ground Breaking (Preps/Streamers/Electrical/ Sound System/Misc.	595.35		25,600.00
Structural Design Fees - Arch Francis Reyes April 2011	909.09		40,000.00
Design and Proj Mgmt Fees (Partial) Arch Francis Reyes Dec 2011	1,136.36		50,000.00
Backfilling Main Lot	13,618.60		585,600.00
Backfilling Access Road (Gravel/Sand)	88.37		3,800.00
Lot Survey Fees - June 2011	395.35		17,000.00
Water Pump Materials & Installation	697.67		30,000.00
Other Expenses (Municipal Eng'r 's Expenses/ Meetings expenses)	<u>639.53</u>		<u>27,500.00</u>
Total Expenses	\$18,557.61	P	800,500.00
TOTAL CASH ON HAND as of Dec 2011	\$358.91	P	21,741.93

THE CHAIRMAN SAYS

Engr. Dingo B. Bonifacio's Groundbreaking Ceremony Message

Mayap a gatpanapun pu ku kekayu ngan na megsipagtagun king okasyon ayni. It is with great pleasure and deep gratitude to speak before you on this groundbreaking ceremony for the construction of the Masantol Multi-Purpose Hall/Evacuation Center.

On behalf of the grateful and proud Masantolenos and various Masantol organizations, I have the honor to welcome all of you and thank you for your time for being here. Historic at important ya pu ing aldong ini kekatamu uling udyat ne pu ning umpisa na ning construction na ning kekatamung paninap, paninap na me-realize king saup da ring bawat metung na magmalasakit king balen Masantol. The construction of a landmark facility that will provide the people of Masantol a place for their recreational activities and will serve as an evacuation center in case of major calamities. Pasensya na pu uling ala pung pag-sidlan ing tula ku at halus eku pa makapaniwala na ing kekaming dating paninap metupad ya king saup ya pu.

Makananu ya pung mebuu ing proyektu tamung ini? Buri ke pung i-share kekayu ing history na ning proyektu tamu from its conception to where we are today.

It was in 2006 when the talk about Project Masantolenos started. Meg-umpisa ya king metung a PANINAP. Inyang Masantolenos Reunion king Las Vegas yang 2006 karin ke pu unang in-offer ing idea na ning kekatamung project. Kalupa tamu pu, excited la pu king idea ding kekatamung kabalen king Las Vegas at mengaku lang suportan de ing proyektu tamu.

Yang 2007, the El Circulo Masantoleno presidential council approved the construction of the project. Apin pu ing kauna-unahang proyekto na sponsoran na ning memalen ning Masantol, El Circulo Masantoleno, at Masantol organizations king US, Canada at aliwa pang bansa. Following that decision, ing kekatamu pung energetic at dedicated Mayor na ning balen Masantol, Hon. Peter B. Flores, PELCO Dir. Che Guevarra, Atty Sen Cayanan at yaku pu, saup-saup kaming mentung site para italakad ya ing project. I want to acknowledge the good works of Mayor Flores, Atty Cayanan and the generous owner of this site in reaching an affordable sales agreement. Palakpakan tala pu ding maganaka tamung kabalen.

After the purchase of the property, we immediately hired an architect to start the planning, conceptualizing and the development of detailed plans and specifications. Inumpisan miya naman pu ing pamanayad saup o pamag-solicit kareng kabalen tamu keti Pilipinas at Amerika. Yang mekatipun na kepong enough funds, inumpisan mi ne pu ing pamanambak.

In the process of design, our consultants have discovered that the site development to receive the multi-purpose building needs a complex foundation. We realized then that with the progress we are making in our fund raising campaigns from the private sectors, it will take years to raise the funds to build the much needed project. Epu basta-basta ing meging pagsubuk para finally mitalakad ya pu ing project ayti. Global recession at typhoon Ondoy & Peping na meging dahilan na pu ning pagka-delay na ning pamanambak. At dahil pu king strong determination tamung mitalakad ing project, king lugud ning Apung Ginu alampasan tamu ita.

It was during these trying times when our good Mayor suggested to the ECM Presidential Council to expand our solicitation campaigns to include government agencies. We have received pledges from Congresswoman Bondoc, Board Member Nelson Calara and Rico Laxa, General Manager of NHA. We have received the commitment of P8M from GM Rico Laxa which led us to hold this groundbreaking ceremony today. Dakal a dakal pung salamat GM Rico Laxa. The whole Masantol is thanking you for the timely release of the funds to start the construction.

Dahil meging joint effort ne pu ning NHA at memalen na ning Masantol ing project ayni, we will be building the project in phases. We will start the basic building and add on the other improvements as we raised the necessary funds.

This is a joyous and historical occasion, especially for the many of us here who have been personally involved in conceptualizing and shaping the project and organizing and directing the On A Mission Campaign "Ing bunga ning balen". Today, as we commemorate the groundbreaking for an inspiring and critically needed multi-purpose hall, I want to congratulate the men & women of EL Circulo Masantoleno and Project Masantolenos. You invested a lot of your time, money and effort on this project. Thank you for your unconditional support. Palakpakan tala mu ding kekatamung officers.

We would like to share this moment to our friends who share our vision and aspiration for the future of Masantol. Friends who recognize the uniqueness of this project. Friends and donors who have stepped up to expand their levels of support to make this dream come true.

The project that we are celebrating today has required leadership, foresight, careful planning and philanthropy. And while we are just breaking ground, today is far from the beginning of this project. We are all part of an amazing history of caring for the Masantol's youth and the elderly. Each of us here today has had a special role in getting this project done.

Pero kalupa na pu ning binanggit ku, umpisa ya pa mu pu ini at kailangan miya pa pu ing kekayung saup at suporta. Eke pu tutuknang mag-raise funds at lalapit karing private individuals, business establishments, private sectors at government agencies para tuluy-tuluy yapu ing construction na ning kekatamung multipurpose hall.

Pasibayu pu, from the bottom of our hearts, dakal pung salamat at God bless us all.

*Masantol Multipurpose Hall Groundbreaking Ceremony
Kalsadang Bayu, Masantol, Pampanga
April 25, 2010*



Ing Bunga Ning Balen

PERSPECTIVE OF THE FIRST PHASE OF CONSTRUCTION



Note: The construction of the covered court/evacuation center is JUST THE FIRST PHASE OF THE CONSTRUCTION. The building of the main hall will follow after the completion of the first phase.