

# HSE Update



The Quarterly News of Human Settlements and Environment Program of TAO-Pilipinas, Inc.

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## Catching up from the Drought

The Human Settlements and Environment (HSE) Program of TAO-Pilipinas has been the late bloomer in blogging and reporting its activities, achievements and challenges online.

Through the **HSE Update** we will try our very best to keep you abreast on the current and upcoming happenings in the HSE Program of TAO-Pilipinas. With so much information to share from our past ten years of working with communities and so much more to share as we progress with our work, **HSE Update** will also put together in the next issue a section on past projects in **In Our Archive**.

Here's to the first batch of news.

### In this Issue:

- Masagana of Navotas claimed their land
- ACCA Navotas Network looks back after two years



### MASAGANA of Navotas Neighborhood Association claimed their Land

Very early in the morning of June 7, 2011, about fifty (50) people from Navotas with their bolos and kitchen knives trek to Angat, Bulacan to clear their resettlement site. They brought water and food and enjoyed a brief picnic for breakfast before the hardwork.

Weeds taller than them and second growth trees and shrubs cover the whole site. With not so sharp and inadequate tools they did not get so far cleaning the 13,961 square meters site that will be the future home for 80 families. A day's work is not enough to clear the site.

They had a meeting right at the site and decided to contract out the whole cleanup to able members. So the men formed teams and made their bid. The lowest bidder won the bid for PhP10,000 (1 USD = 43).

The group spent PhP6,000 to get to the site by hiring three jeepneys that carried about 50 people to do a day's work. P10,000 for 4 men to do the clearing of the whole site is a good price. All members will share the cost so the total amount will be divided among 68 families who are in the masterlist.



**Masagana members in action.** Entering the site, clearing the weeds and trees with their almost bare hands. Urban dwellers have no more grass to cut in the city, and has no tools for cutting grass or trees.



Masagana is currently living in the middle of fishponds. Floodwaters stayed permanently around them, and goes up and down depending on the tides. During typhoons, strong winds threaten their weak houses. Livelihood opportunities are around the area so they remained in Tanza for 6 years now.

Masagana Resettlement Project is supported by Asian Coalition for Community Action and SELAVIP. Through a savings program, Masagana is able to take a loan to pay for the land and build a very basic house. Funds for the development are not sufficient and support is continuously sourced to complete the project. It is hoped to be completed by April 2012 when Masagana plans to transfer together as a community to start a new and better life. The land will soon be purchased. Planning of the site, design of the house and boundary and topographic surveys are underway as well as negotiations for the right-of-way.

More details and updates on this project will be posted in the next issue. 🙏🙏🙏

## ACCA Navotas Network looks back after 2 Years

Leaders of 4 community organizations in Navotas held its second annual assessment in Gerthel Beach Resort in Lobo, Batangas last 17-19 June 2011.

Two leaders from each organization namely: Masagana of Navotas Neighborhood Association (Masagana), Samahan ng Maliliit na Mangangalakal ng R. Domingo (SMMRD), Samahan ng Kababaihan sa Dulong Tangos (SKDT) and Samahang Pantalan Uno (SPU) met together to assess the progress of each organization relative to their target activities.



Each organization presented a checklist of planned activities, what was achieved and not achieved and why. Three out of 4 organizations have started their savings program, eager to save for their identified needs. Masagana wanted to resettle to Angat, Bulacan and would need their savings as a guarantee for a loan to pay for the land. They need to save a minimum of P5,000. SMMRD wanted to get a loan for water and power connection. They aim to save P1,500 to get a loan of about P3,000.

An emerging concern is the threat of eviction looming over houses along the coast in Dulong Tangos and Pantalan Uno affecting about 50 member-families of the two organizations. The local government of Navotas is building a flood control dike to address flooding in the area.

A one year plan for 2011-2012 was also agreed by the organizations. Plans covered concerns about health, capability-building, livelihood and security of tenure.

### Health Objectives:

1. Gain more knowledge to prevent dreaded disease like cancer, aids, tb, etc.
2. Learn about Philippine Integrative Medicine
3. To provide treatment to those who are sick.

### Savings Objectives:

1. To avail of a loan under the small and big project of ACCA.
2. To encourage all members to save.
3. To raise funds for additional support to projects.

### Org'l Consolidation Objectives:

1. To determine the actual number of members
2. To develop a group of trainers within the network.
3. To maintain updates to members
4. To register to have a legal personality and have a set of by-laws to follow.
5. To increase membership.

### Livelihood Objectives:

1. To raise funds for the livelihood project of members.
2. To raise funds for the organizations

### Security of Tenure Objectives:

1. To determine the place for the relocation of families affected by the construction of the flood control dike.
2. To have security of tenure.

**Activities:**

1. Orientation on:
  - cancer prevention
  - Integrative Med
  - Health insurance
3. Setup botica binhi
4. Medical mission
5. Information dissemination in community

**Activities:**

2. Encourage members to save continuously

**Activities:**

1. Enforce regular meetings of organizations under ACCA
2. Register with SEC .
3. All organizations should have a membership form. All members should fill-up.
4. Trainings for leaders & trainers for Educ Comm.
  1. Annual ACCA GA

**Activities:**

2. Coordinate with NGOs, POs, LGUs with livelihood program.
3. Fund raising

**Activities:**

1. Coordinate with LGU, barangay and NHA.
2. Know whether there is really a space for housing
1. Conduct land research.

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