

Reflection: Pagninilay at Pagbabalik Tanaw
Sustainable Shelter Assistance for Manicani Island, Guiuan

1. Introduction

Participants started arriving as early as 7:30 in the morning. Registration extended until – 9:00 to wait for the beneficiaries from San Jose to arrive. Breakfast was provided to start the day. The Reflection Session started with a prayer led by Teodora (Mana Dora) Elacion and welcome remarks from TAO executive director, Arlene Christy Lusterio. The Beneficiaries' Reflection session was organized to give space for beneficiaries to reflect and communicate to TAO-Pilipinas messages which they wanted to communicate and was not given the opportunity to do so during the busy and fast-paced construction period.

The facilitator, Rosanna (Dessa) Quesada Palm was introduced by Pilgrim Bliss (Bimbim) Gayo, country coordinator of Terre des Hommes. Dessa Quesada is the executive director of Youth Advocates Through Theater Arts (YATTA) based in Dumaguete, Negros Oriental and a member of the Philippine Educational Theater Association (PETA).

The activity started with the setting of objectives and the presentation of the flow of the activities for the whole day.

1.1 Objectives

The following are the objectives and the program of the Reflections Session:

1. Get to know and enjoy each other's company;
2. Create a timeline of key events in their lives since typhoon Yolanda struck the Eastern Visayan islands, particularly Samar;
3. Share reflections on the effect of the shelter project on the participants' lives, as individuals, families and communities;
4. Identify issues and challenges that surfaced during the construction period and the strategies utilized to address them;
5. Express their core learning and sentiments to the group;
6. Have fun.

1.2 Program of Activities

Time	Topic	Method
8:00 – 8:30	Registration	
8:30 – 9:00	Prayer Welcome Remarks Introduction of Facilitator	Teodora Elacion Arlene Christy Lusterio Pilgrim Bliss (Bimbim) Gayo
9:00 – 9:30	Kilalanan at Kamustahan	Games and Songs
9:30 – 10:30	Ang Aming Kwento (Timeline)	Simple Timeline Drawing
10:30 – 12:00	Ang Aming Tahanan: Reflections on the shelter project	Visual Arts (clay)
12:00-1:00	LUNCH	
1:00-2:30	Nagbabagang Balita (Issues and Challenges)	Creative Drama
2:30-3:30	Handumanan (Core Learning)	Visual Arts/ Ritual
3:30 – 4:00	Pasasalamat/Pamamaalam	Song
	Response or Closing Remarks	Arvin Chua and Bimbim Gayo

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1.3 Introduction of Participants. Since everyone know each other, a different style of introduction was made using a song. The participants form a circle and each selects a partner. The pairs sing the action song Luzon, Bisayas at Mindanao. At the end of the song each pair shares 3 important things about each other. Then the participants changes partners and shares 3 important things about themselves to their new partner.

1.4 Song No. 1:

Luzon, Bisayas at Mindanao
Nagsama-sama ang mga tao
Tatlong bagay ang ibubulgar
Silang lahat..... Binulaga.

2. Workshop 1: Ang Aming Kwento (Pagbalik Tanaw sa mga Kaganapan) – Timeline

Instructions:

Sa manila paper, guguhit ng isang linya sa pahalang sa gitna ng papel. Sa kaliwang dulo ng linya ay isusulat ang Nov. 18, 2013. Sa kanang dulo naman ay Sept. 14, 2015. Gamit ang mga pagguhit o mga salita ay itatala ang mga importanteng pangyayari sa buhay ninyo sa panahong nagdaan. Sa ibabaw ng linya ay yaong tinuturing ninyong mabubuting pangyayari at sa ilalim naman ay mga di nakakatuwang pangyayari.

Participants formed five (5) groups and recalls the events that happened from Nov 8, 2013 until September 14, 2015.

1. Using a manila paper/ Cartolina and marker/crayon/pastel, draw a horizontal line. At the left end write Nov. 8, 2013 and at the right end of the line write Sept 14, 2015.
2. Using images or words list down the important events that happened to your life within the period of Nov 8, 2013 – Sept 14, 2015.
3. Put the positive events above the line and negative events below the line.
4. Each group selects a reporter to present their output.

Refer to Annex 1. Table 1. Ang Aming Kwento for Workshop 1 results.

2.1 Summary of Workshop 1 Reports by Dessa

“As a summary, beneficiaries showed that many helped to reestablish livelihood ... and their dreams. Beneficiaries also mentioned low points, these are also considered important events



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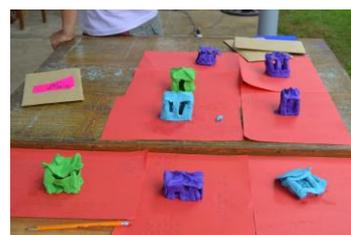
in our lives. Also, not just one but successive typhoons. Some even mentioned earthquake and the storm surge. There are also events that happened to the people, the relationship that increases poverty, and even before the typhoon there are already different interest groups working in the community in Manicani centering on mining. But above all else beneficiaries are all happy that they are alive. They survived and was given a chance to tell their story of the courage of the Pilipino especially those in Manicani. You stood by your principles, so that even though there was housing provided by the Mining company, they did not accept it.”

Many organizations went to Manicani including MAG, TAO-Pilipinas, TdH, INAM, ABS-CBN, Christian Aid. Many helped but “if you are to write in your diary, the most important event that happened for you is the Turn-over of houses yesterday. The feeling is different when you know that you can already live in your house, you can already put the poster of your favorite actor or actress (like Sarah Geronimo or Vilma Santos) on your wall, and you can already call it a home.

2.2 Song 2: Kini ang Balay

(This is the house sung to the tune of This is the day)

Kini ang balay (2x) nga gibuhat nato (2x)
Naay pagsabot (2x) ug pagminahalay (2x)
Kay kini ang balay nga gibuhat nato
Naay pagsabot, pagminahalay
Kay kini ang balay, kini ang balay nga gibuhat nato.



3. Workshop 2: Ang Aming Tahanan

Instructions:

- *Gamit ang clay, hulmahin ninyo ang itsura ng bahay ninyo na patayo. Pwedeng makita ang loob ng bahay o pwede rin ang kapaligiran nito. Ipatong ito sa gitna ng papel.*
- *Maglagay ng tatlong poste sa paligid nito. Ang unang poste ang magpapahiwatig ng epekto ng proyekto sa inyo bilang indibidwal (ang epekto ay maaring pisikal, sosyal, sikolohikal, spiritwal). Ang ikalawa ang para naman sa inyong pamilya at ang ikatlo ay epekto ng proyekto pabahay para sa komunidad.*

Using modeling clay, form the figure of your standing house. You can show what is inside of your house or what is around it. Put it on the middle of a piece of paper.

Put three posts around it. The first post will show the effect of the project to you as an individual (the effect can be physical, social, psychological, spiritual), the second post is for your family and the third is the effect of the housing project to the community.



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Select a secretary who will write all the answers of the group and select also the group reporter. Give each member of the group a chance to share their stories.

Refer to Annex 1. Table 2. Ang Aming Bahay for Workshop 2 results.

3.1 Summary of the morning session:



The morning session covered the time line activity where participants recalled the events that happened to their lives starting November 8, 2013 until September 14, 2015.

The timeline showed that there are many things that made people happy and there are also things that made them sad or made them worry. But going back to the houses, participants said the biggest effect of the house is the sense of security and the hope that this will even create better effects in the coming months. The house also served as the mark of commitment to the principles that the group stand for. Though neighbors who are not beneficiaries envy the beneficiaries for house and this can affect their life together in the community.

3.2 Ice breaker - Game 1: Ipanday ang Bahay ng lahat ng...

The participants seat in a circle. The facilitator started with instructions and examples how to play the game. The game is to complete the phrase “Ipanday ang Bahay ng lahat ng (build the house by all those who are)... and all those who are described by the phrase must exchange seats. One seat is removed from the circle. The facilitator starts the first round and exchange seats with the participants. The participant who is not able to find a seat becomes the it.

Example : Ipanday ang bahay ng lahat ng nagsipilyo kaninang umaga” – all those who brushed their teeth this morning have to exchange seats.

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4. Workshop 3: Nagbabagang Balita (Mga Pagsubok at Tugon)

Instructions:

- Sa loob ng isang proyekto, maraming mabubuting bunga na dumadaan ng mga pagsubok at suliranin. Para sa inyo, pumili ng isang matinding pagsubok na hinarap ninyo sa proyektong ito at isulat ang pinakabuod ng pagsubok sa meta-card. Maghandang ipaliwanag sa grupo kung kinakailangan.
- Bigyan ng pagkakataon ang bawat isa na ipaliwanag ang piniling pagsubok o suliranin.
- Pagkatapos ng lahat, pag-usapan din kung ano ang ginawa ng iba't ibang kalahok sa proyekto para matugunan ang mga problemang ito.
- Ano ang resulta ng mga hakbang na isinagawa? Nakatulong ba o hindi? Itala ang mga sagot.
- Gumawa ng isang simpleng skit (estilo ng isang balita sa telebisyon) para ipakita ang buod ng pinag-usapan sa grupo.



- In a project, there are many good results that went through challenges and problems. Choose one big challenge which you face in this project. Write a brief summary of the challenge in the metacard. Prepare to explain to the group if needed.
- Give each member of the group a chance to explain his/her chosen challenge or problem.
- Also discuss what was done by the different actors in the project to address the problem/challenge.
- What is the result of the actions done? Did it help address the problem or not? List down the answers.
- Prepare a simple skit (in the style of a news report on TV) to show the summary of the group discussion.

Refer to Annex 1. Table 3. Nagbabagang Balita - Mga Pagsubok at Tugon for Workshop 3 results.

4.1 Summary of Workshop 3

Many issues were raised in the skit covering delays in delivery of materials by suppliers, unavailable materials in suppliers, disagreements between contractors and beneficiaries, and construction monitoring team (supervisor and foreman), “overpayments” to contractors, basic services in the new houses located along navy road, and demolition of the old house were discussed and clarified in an open forum after the presentations.

4.2 Open Forum on Issues Presented

Arlene Lusterio, TAO-Pilipinas Executive Director, thanked the beneficiaries for openly expressing the problems and issues related to the construction of their house which they face and responded to each issue.

1. On the issue of provision of water and power supply, this is not covered by the shelter project under TAO-Pilipinas. But under Project Pagbangon There is the program on Sanitation and Renewable Energy. For those along Navy Road which is not part of the power grid, there is a possibility that you will be given a solar panel. This is being implemented by Sibol ng Agham at

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Teknolohiya (SIBAT). Solar power has limitations, this is only good for lighting. It is not sufficient to supply electricity for TV and refrigerator. TAO-Pilipinas provided a copy of our Beneficiary Selection results to SIBAT and they already made an initial ocular survey of the areas. There is no recent update but this is a recognized need that should be addressed. Regarding water, the provision is in partnership with the barangay. SIBAT will put up a water tank in Barangay Buenavista and Banaag. How this water supply will reach the beneficiaries needs to be verified. The plan of SIBAT is to install tap stands and this is already started in Buenavista and being discussed in Banaag.

2. On construction related issues. It is a recent and direct complaint about the foreman and supervisor. We needed this confirmation from you.

2.1 On the issue of not informing the beneficiary of the remaining budget for labor, the Supervisor claimed that initially the system requires the beneficiary to sign the release of payment. But during the first releases, the beneficiaries refused to sign and told the supervisor to just do it – kayo na ang bahala sa release.

The beneficiaries answered no. They were not informed and they did not agree to that system. We intentionally did not involve them in this meeting so you can freely say what you want to say.

2.2 On the issue of house completion, TAO went around and each beneficiary were informed by Verna during the turn-over on the remaining work that must be done to complete their house. On the issue of contractors' payments or overpayments, we will be clear that there is no additional amount to the P44,800 budget for labor. We have no extra fund to cover for the lost funds – overpayments that must be recovered from the contractor.

2.3 Second, Jun, the supervisor who is still in Manicani will have to clarify and settle issues. What is presented in the discussion is just the end result. But these issues came about after a series of talks. There are initial discussions and agreements between you (contractor, beneficiary, supervisor) that we do not know. So this must be resolved by the supervisor. As there were efforts to resolve the misunderstanding between contractor and beneficiary long before this reflection session. But some of beneficiaries refused to talk to their contractor. The problem will not be resolved without a dialogue.

2.4 Third, beneficiaries are reminded that they hired their contractor for their house. TAO hoped that the beneficiary has confidence on the contractor and know that he can deliver or complete the house. But the three of us signed the contract. The role of TAO is to monitor that the contractor builds the house according to the plan. But the beneficiaries should also maintain a good working relationship with contractor. If there is misunderstanding, there is a great possibility that the house will not be completed.

2.5 In Banaag, one beneficiary, Mana Elena, complained that when they did not have materials, the Contractor was pulled out by the foreman and transferred to Buenavista to work on the foreman's brother's house, who is also a beneficiary. Then the contractor did not return. The contractor was replaced by his brother who owe her payment for their food. She told the supervisor and foreman not to pay the contractor because he is not the one building their houses. But the supervisor paid him and they did not inform the beneficiaries how much is the remaining funds for labor in each house.

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TAO Executive Director clarified the contracting work. The contractor who signed a contract with the beneficiary has delegated another person to do the remaining work. Let us call that a sub-contractor under the contractor. The contractor need not be the one present in your house for as long as he sends workers to build your house. The sub-contractor, who is his brother, is the contractor's responsibility. On the issue of food owed to beneficiaries, TAO-Pilipinas will not get involved in that.

The biggest mistake of the supervisor is the release of payment to contractor without the knowledge of the beneficiary. TAO also need an explanation on that. It is in the contract of the supervisor to secure authorization/permission from the beneficiary before the release of payment. We are accountable for this.

2.6 For those whose contractor left the unfinished house, we have addressed it. Some replaced their contractor, others contracted the completion of their house. For those who replaced their contractor, we clarified the remaining scope of work and the remaining budget for labor and agreed with the contractor on the remaining contract. There were cases when the remaining budget is smaller than the scope of work. Such as the case of Jorge Abellano, Jr. So the contractor has to return part of his payment. The difficulty here is we made an advance payment. Remember that in the contract we made a 25% advance payment for labor. So if the contractor is replaced, surely there is an amount that will not be recovered by his work. And this is the current problem of some beneficiaries.

2.7 So overall, the major problem is the lack of information of the beneficiary on the payment releases for labor. Our resolution particular to the case of Jorge, is we will try to recover portion of the advance payment which was not covered by his work from the contractor. You have received some amount 2,200 + 4,000+ but this is still not sufficient to cover the remaining scope work.

Mana Dora recalled from meetings that the payment for contractor should only cover what was accomplished. They are strict in the release of payment for her contractor. Her contractor received a lot of money after they finished her Brother's house. Why is it that for others, there are payment released beyond the work done.

TAO received the same feedback on the strict release of payment to contractors. But what is clear is those contractors who left received an advance payment that they have not yet worked for. So that is the difficulty of quickly replacing your contractor because there is an agreement. This advance payment was not considered. Since there was an advance payment there are losses in the payment for labor in case of unprecedented replacement.

For the replacement, a new contract is made and the contractor signs and he is informed of the budget or remaining contract price.

And yet there are still have problems, because the reality is there are really contractors who request to advance their payment to provide for their family needs. Just today, there is a case where the beneficiary (Romulo Docena) guarantees for his contractor, without the guarantee/approval from the beneficiary, we will not release any payment.

2.8 On the issue of Virgilio Caliwán whose contractor is his brother. The contractor did not want to finish the house and threatens to stop any other contractor who will continue to finish the house. The solution is to find another contractor, Eric Obello, will finish the house. The original contractor can be sued in the barangay for not completing his contract without reason. But we don't want to go through a legal battle.

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2.9 On the issue of unclear payments received by the contractor, vouchers will be presented to the contractor to validate that he has received the payment.

For those who have major concerns, we will ask some of you to meet briefly tomorrow during the thanksgiving. We have asked Jun the supervisor to meet with the contractor and beneficiaries to clarify major issues. This will be his last visit to Manicani and we will ask him to settle those issues that need to be settled.

For those houses which are almost finished, Verna and Lorena have informed the beneficiaries of the remaining work that needs to be completed. Although most of the punch lists are already signed by the owner and the supervisor, TAO still saw some minor details that need to be completed, such as installation of wood cleats on the roof, some iron bars that needs to be cut neatly, etc. And we demand that this be completed by your contractor before the release of final payment. We will visit again for the final checking of your houses before the final release of payment.

On confusion on the scope of work on the house of Ronald Padua, it will be clarified if the contractor Eric Obello, will do the gutter or if it is part of the scope of the work subcontracted to Timoteo Abucejo. We will check on the contract and the payments issued to whom. We cannot settle it now.

2.10 On issue of demolition of old house, beneficiaries requested consideration for several reasons, to keep the house for a small sari-sari store, for sentimental value, for the many good and not so good memories associated with the house. For the plants which they took so long to nurture and grow.

TAO Executive director reminded the beneficiaries of the agreement made before the project started. The objective of demolishing the house is to ensure that the beneficiaries will move from the place near the water to a safer location. If keeping part of the old house is allowed to accommodate some members of the family who will not fit in the small new house, we are also allowing members of the family to remain exposed to danger or hazard. We can allow gradual transfer and construction of extension in the new house to accommodate more members of the family. But this has to have a timeframe.

Regarding the sentimental value of the old house, parts of the old house which signifies important memories to the family can be added to the new house and be given a special place in the new house. TAO can help in designing how this will be done.

For all the request to keep the old this is not allowed. "If we allow for one we should allow for all. This will be a problem."

Bimbim Gayo shared her experience of living in one house for 20 years and transferring 11 times from the time she was 21 years old until now. She relates to the difficulty of moving to a new place. But emphasized on the rational behind the need to transfer to a safer place for the long term. She also talked about sentimental value and the importance of being open to the idea of moving and starting a new life in a new house in a safer place, and the ability of people to create beautiful stories in the new place. She cited as example the case of Nonoy Loyola asking to keep a small store for his old mother by the sea. So instead of asking to stay in the old place, the question will be different if the idea is to move to the new place. She also shared her experience with flood and losing half of her valuable things. But she also realized later that she can also live with just half of what she used to have. She does not need to buy many unnecessary things, but just the basic to live

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a comfortable life. On the sentimental value she recommended bringing the pieces of the house which the beneficiary feel sentimental to the new house and finding a good place for it in the new house. "Looking forward, five years after, surely the new house will form part of your sentimental stories."

Majority of the beneficiaries agree that if concession is given to one it should be given to all. Therefore there should be no concession. Also, if beneficiaries are open to move to the new place and the new house, they should be open to make adjustment to living in the new house in a new location.

Dessa Quesada closed the discussion with a note that difficulties/challenges are really experienced in situations that are caused by a major disaster not experienced in many parts of the country. There are challenges with new systems and new methodologies. We showed our resilience and courage in the first days, first months and we will continue to find ways without destroying the relationships that we have built. It is important for projects like this to build on the relationship with each other. Also part of this is because the beneficiaries stood by their principles on anti-mining. Let us respect the partnership created by the shelter project based on principles, though it is difficult. But the heart knows how to create new memories and embrace those memories from our home, our family.

Arlene Lusterio ended with a note that it is difficult to find solution to the problem of payments, but will exhaust means to address the problem, unless it is a major issue that will be tackled differently. For now, there is no additional funds to cover for additional labor costs.

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5. Workshop 4: Handumanan/Mga Baong Aral

Instructions:

- Sa paglipat natin sa bagong tahanan, meron tayong tangan na mga mabubuting aral mula sa pagtutulungan ng lahat para sa proyektong ito.
 - Para sa inyo, ano ang pinakaimportanteng aral na nakuha ninyo? Isulat sa papel na bayong.
 - Bawat barangay ay magtitipon at gagawa ng isang mensahe ng pasasalamat. Sino ang gustong pasalamatan at para saan?
 - Pipili ng kinatawan para ibahagi ang mensahe sa buong grupo.
-
- In our transfer to our new house, we bring with us lessons from the cooperation of everybody in this project.
 - For you, what is the most important lesson that you learned? Write in the paper bayong.
 - Every barangay will group together and form a thank you message. Who you want to thank and for whom. Choose a representative to share the message of the group.



Beneficiaries formed a big circle and held hands for the final activity and gathered all the house models in the center. Messages were written in the paper bayong and placed next to the houses. All sing the song *Salamat Kasama*.

5.1 Song 3: *Salamat Kasama*

Salamat kasama sa inyong panahon
Salamat kasama sa pagtutulungan
Naramdaman namin ang inyong tiwala't aruga
Salamat kasama

(sa pagitan ng pagkanta, ibabahagi ng mga kinatawan ang mensahe ng pasasalamat)

Each beneficiary took turns reading their lessons learned and thank you messages after the song. The song is repeated again and again until everyone has shared his message.

Refer to Annex 1. Table 4. Handumanan Mga Baong Aral for Workshop 4 results.

6. Closing Remarks

While still standing in the circle closing remarks were delivered by Christian Aid and Terre des Hommes after all the thank you messages from the beneficiaries.

6.1 Message from Arvin Chua, Emergency Programme Office of Christian Aid

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Sangalan po ng Christian Aid, ako ay nagpapasalamat sa oras ng pagpunta ninyo dito at sa pagpayag na kami ay magiging bahagi o instrumento sa pagkamit ng inyong mga pangarap na magkaroon ng sustainable na bahay.

Kami sa Christian Aid ay nagpapaasalamat din sa inyo dahil marami din kaming mga natutunan. Kami naman ay umaasa na hindi lang po nagtatapos dito ang mithi nating pagbangon, Simula pa lang po ito ng mas matagalang na paglalakbay tungo sa pag-unlad. Taga-Leyte ho ako, hindi maganda ang bahay namin, tumutulo at sa murang edad ng 9 naalala ko nagdadasal ako, sabi ko Lord kailan kaya darating yung panahon na pag bumabagyo ay hindi na kami nababasa Siguro ngayon na syempre may bahay na kayong maayos parang nakishare na rin ako sa inyo at natupad na rin ang panalangin ko. Yun lang at maraming salamat po.

In the name of Christian Aid, I think you for giving time to come here and for letting us become a part or an instrument in the fulfilment of your dream to have a sustainable shelter.

We in Christian Aid, also thank you because we learned a lot. We hope that this is not the end of our aim to rise up and recover. This is just the start of a long journey towards development. I am from Leyte, our house was not beautiful. When it rains it drips inside. At a young age of 9, I remember my prayer. I said Lord, when will the time come, That when there is a typhoon and we will not get wet? Now, that you already have a good house, I feel like I also share together with you the answer to my prayers. Thank you very much.

6.2 Message from Pilgrim Bliss Gayo, Terre des Hommes Country Coordinator

Salamat mga kasama sa Manicani at binigyan nyo kami ng pagkakataon na maging bahagi sa trabaho sa pagtupad po ng inyong karapatan na magkaroon po kayo ng bahay. Lagi kong sinasabi kase hindi po dahil galing sa amin yung pera , pero po yung karapatan po na magkaroon ng bahay ay karapatan po so huwag nyo pong isipin na, kase hindi po kami politiko, naniniwala po kami na ang pagbigay ng bahay ay karapatan ninyo, walang hinihinging kapalit, ilagay nyo sa isip nyo na karapatan nyo yun na magkaroon ng bahay.

Tapos alam ko na marami pang problema hanggat matatapos ang inyong mga balay, pero siguro kung balikan natin yung ilang araw after ng Yolanda siguro hindi naman ganon kabigat yung hinaharap natin ngayon no? Lilipas din yun, tulad ngayon after 5 ka tuig, no masakit pa rin yun. Pero alam ko malalampasan din natin yung mga problema sa ating mga Contractor, so ano lang siguro, reminder lang huwag masyadong pabigatin sa mga sarili natin, huwag palakihin ang pagtingin sa mga problema

Bigyan din natin ng panahon ang mga sarili nating i-proseso ang pag-iwan sa ating mga natitirang mga bahay, at least yun nga gaya ng sinabi ko maging bukas tayo sa bagong bukas, Alam ko na hindi lahat ng kasama sa komunidad ay positibo ang pananaw, reminder ko lang din sa atin na ang bahay po natin ay nasa lokasyon ng isang barangay, isang komunidad ng Manicani, huwag masyadong pabigatin, lahat ng makakaya natin. Kung pwede po makitungo sa ating mga kapitbahay kase tayo yung mas maganda ang bahay kaya nating mas maging ano bang tawag dyan, pasensyoso, mahinahon tayo sa pakikitungo sa ating kapitbahay, kase nga ang bahay natin ay nasa lokasyon ng komunidad.

Masaya ako na hindi lang po matibay ang ating bahay kundi naging bahagi siya ng pagpatibay sa inyong mga kalooban na harapin ang kanya-kanyang buhay, sa inyong positibong pakikisama sa inyong, kawsa sa inyong pakikibisog, yun lang.

Hapon na kase maraming salamat at magkita kita pa rin po tayo, kase pabalik balik pa ho ako sa Manicani, kahit po tapos na yung Partnership natin sa Pabahay. Maraming salamat.

Thank you colleagues in Manicani that you gave us the chance to be part of the work to fulfil your rights to have a decent house. I always say, not because the funds came from us, but because the right to have a house is a right, we are not politicians, and let us bear in mind.that the right to have a house does not require anything in return, in exchange.

I know there are still problems, until your house is finished. But if we go back to the time several days after Yolanda, maybe the problems we are facing now are nothing compared to what we faced

before. It will pass. Like now, after 5 years, it will still be painful to remember. But I know that we will overcome our problems with our contractor. So just a reminder, don't stress ourselves too much. Don't view the problem as an overwhelming challenge.

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Let us also give ourselves time to process the idea of leaving our remaining old houses. Let us be open to a new tomorrow. I also know that not all your neighbors in the community have a positive outlook, let us remind ourselves that we all live in one location in one barangay, in one community in Manicani. Let us adjust and understand our neighbors. We are the ones with good houses, we are the ones in a better situation, so be more patient with your neighbors. Deal with them calmly because you all live in one community.

I am happy that we did not only have a strong house, but it has also helped in the strengthening of your inner selves in facing the challenges of your individual lives, in your cooperation with your fight for your cause.

I will still see you as I will still be going back to Manicani even if we already finished our partnership in the shelter project.

