



KABALIKAT SA PAGPAPAUNLAD NG BASECO COMPOUND INC.

Barangay 649, Zone 68, Port Area, Manila
SEC Reg. No. A20011238

June 18, 2008

JEORGIE TENOLETE
President

DIOCELIO CANDANO
Vice-President

MARIETA BETASOLO
Secretary

LORNA MAHINAL
Treasurer

DORINA TANTOCO
Auditor

JUANITA VASQUEZ
MARK LUNA
ABEL DITOAL
LEONILA VERGARA
PRO

EDITHA CARILLO
Adviser

Dear Friends,

We the undersigned represent the 7,000 poor families who live in Baseco on land reclaimed from Manila Bay near the international harbor. In 2002 President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo proclaimed for the residents the 56 hectares of land that make up Baseco. This means the area was declared "open for distribution to the actual occupants". This gives legal ownership rights, if not yet title, especially if, because of the proclamation, people build or improve their homes giving them even more substandard ownership rights. Habitat for Humanity and Gawad Kalinga, a local NGO, have built 2,000 houses for us in Baseco at a cost of about \$3million (about P50,000 a house). The government arranged a sites and services area in Baseco for another 1,000 families.

After all this, the government now wants to use the 56 has. for commercial purposes and intends the families to move to a ten-hectare site to be still reclaimed near Baseco in Manila Bay. The government claims the reclamation done in Baseco up to the present has been done so poorly, the area will "liquefy", turn to mud, if there is an earthquake of 8 on the Richter scale. It is too expensive and technically difficult, the government says, to repair the present reclamation under the houses without moving them.

The total project when finished will cover 180 has. in Manila Bay. Of all this only 10 has. are given for the poor.

We would like the following to happen:

- (1) We want to get second interpretations of the 2004 soil test that determined the present reclamation is "risky". We ask government to give us copies of the original soil test report, so we can approach engineers and other knowledgeable people for their independent interpretation.**
- (2) We ask the government to clarify how and where it will house the 7,000 families. We do not want to leave Baseco which is near our work in the harbor area and nearby markets. We are near schools, hospitals and clinics.**
- (3) We ask the government to furnish us with final plans and budget so we can argue our case for a restraining order and injunction in court.**
- (4) We ask government to include people's representatives in all meetings along with its Barangay Captain (local government official).**

We are not sure President Macapagal-Arroyo is fully aware of the consequences of her government's current plans for Baseco. On January 31, 2008 she told our leaders, "Baseco is for socialized housing."

If evictions begin we will resist in every way we can. Before that becomes necessary can you send the following letter to President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, copy furnished to several heads of government agencies?

Very sincerely,

JEORGIE TENOLETE
President