

MESSAGE

Imperial Homes Corporation – IFC/World Bank

Low-cost Solar-Powered Homes Turnover Rites

Via Verde, Santo Tomas, Batangas

March 14, 2016, 10:30 am

Solar Power for Resilient Homes and Green Settlements

By Secretary Emmanuel M. De Guzman

Vice Chair, Climate Change Commission

Enfinity Solar CEO Enfinity Asia Supplier, Gino Van neer, CEO/President, Ms Emma Imperial; President and CEO of Infinity Imperial, Jocelyn Sta-Ana; Solar Solutions Home Development Mutual Fund Senior Vice President, Engr. Juanito Eje Friends; Solar Solutions Home Development Mutual Fund Vice President, Engr. Chito Enciso; Senior Operations Officer of IFC-WB, Ms. Farida Adji; friends, ladies and gentleman...

Let me begin by congratulating Imperial Homes Corporation and its global partner Enfinity for this pioneering venture. It is indeed pioneering because this is the first low-cost housing community with solar-powered homes. In Forbes Park and Dasmarinas Village in Makati, few homes have solar power – so you are leading the way! You are modeling the way for greener homes' use of renewable energy for reducing GHG emissions.

I think the officials of Imperial Homes Corporation Enfinity deserve a round of applause for this wonderful, record-setting project.

We Filipinos believe that homes ownership is a priority in life. Filipinos have a love affair with their homes, stretching their finances to buy them sacrificing a lot of things in order to have a house or a condo unit.

Growth in the housing sector has been driven by Overseas Filipino Workers and young professionals who have rising income levels as well as the availability of affordable financing schemes. In 2015, OFW remittances reached USD 26.93 billion. Most OFWs prefer to invest in housing and real estate rather than other investment areas.

One reason is because owning a home is a tangible and concrete compared to stocks and mutual funds. But in all economic classes home ownership has always been a passion among Filipinos. To us, a house is not only an investment – it is the center of family life and the center of family stability.

Now, in Santo Tomas, Batangas we have homes that come with their own source of electric power – solar power which is clean, renewable power. And that is why we are so appreciative of this project by Imperial Homes Corporation.

There are two good reasons why the government and the Climate Change Commission are keen in promoting solar power. First is that solar power has an overwhelmingly positive environment impact. Second is that solar power promotes the desirable political and economic goal of energy security, sustainability and resilience.

The best way to promote solar power, of course, is to get more people like the stockholders of Imperial Homes Corporation to invest in it. And the best way for government to encourage the flow of more private investments into solar and other clean energy sources is to provide incentives, rebates and tax breaks. The Climate Change Commission is working with business, industry, and Congress to study possible incentives.

Let us keep in mind that the Philippines and the world need to drastically reduce carbon emissions in order to protect our climate, air and water. We can achieve this by helping to build resilient homes and green settlements. We can assure you, therefore, of our strong support for basic goal of your company which, in the words of your President and CEO, Madame Emma M. Imperial, is “to make the Philippines the solar capital of Asia for low-cost mass housing communities.”

Maraming salamat po. Thank you and good day.

#