

UPDATES ON THE CALABARZON REGIONAL GOVERNMENT CENTER (RGC)



Engr. Isaac S. David, President of MTD Philippines, Inc. and City Engineer Irwin Pacada, representing Calamba City Mayor Justin Marc SB Chipeco already "topped off" the roof deck of the 5th floor of Building 1 of the Calabarzon Regional Government Center (CRGC) located at Brgy. Mapagong, Calamba City, Laguna last August 30, 2013. We can, therefore, expect that the country's first-ever one-stop-shop Regional Government Center for Calabarzon will soon be inaugurated this January 2013, one year after the Joint Venture Agreement was signed between Calamba City and MTD Philippines, Inc., David said.

It will be recalled that this Joint Venture Agreement was forged between Calamba City and MTD Philippines, Inc. last January 23, 2013 in Calamba City witnessed by the Board of Directors of the AlloyMtd Group from Malaysia, the Calamba City Council and Calabarzon officials and by Director General Lilia de Lima of the Philippine Economic Zone Authority.

Engr. Isaac David, said that construction is in full swing and even ahead of schedule. Phase 1, which includes the site development, Building 1 and the Podium of the CRGC is scheduled to be finished by December 2013 and shall be ready for occupancy by Jan. 2014. Calabarzon Regional Agencies like DILG, DTI, NEDA, BFAR, and DepEd will be relocating their regional offices to the RGC in Calamba City, Laguna. Other agencies like HLURB, DOLE, Land Bank and Pag-Ibig, have submitted their letters of Intent (LOI) to transfer to the said facility in compliance with Executive Order No. 246. Other agencies are still working on their respective budgetary allocations for their transfer.

Three other buildings will soon rise within the next 18 months, hopefully to be finished by June 2015. By then, it can accommodate at least 5,000 government employees from 50 different agencies which will be within the Equus Hub – a 25-hectare commercial facility envisioned to be a "complete city" to be simultaneously developed.



Last Oct. 3-5, 2013, MTD Phil. Organized a study visit to Putrajaya, Malaysia for Calamba and Calabarzon officials can see the highly successful development of Putrajaya in Malaysia, a planned city that serves as the federal administrative center of Malaysia where the one-stop-shop concept for the CRGC was patterned. AlloyMtd Group of Malaysia invested P2.5Billion for this project in support of President Aquino's Public-Private-Partnership or PPP program.

Mayor Timmy Chipeco said that the DOTC Toll Regulatory Board (TRB) had already issued the go signal through its provisional notice to proceed to the City of Calamba for the access road to be constructed from the CRGC to SLEX, as approved by the TRB Board. According to former Calamba City Mayor, Cong. Joaquin Chipeco of the 2nd District of Laguna, this world-class government facility will benefit millions of Filipinos by making it more convenient and accessible to the public.

With the assistance of NEDA Region IV-A headed by Director Agnes Espinas and CSTARS President, DILG Regional Director Josie Castilla-Go, Calamba City Mayor Justin Marc Chipeco is enjoining other Calabarzon Regional Directors to submit their respective LOIs and relocate to the CRGC where they can opt to rent, lease to own or even for outright purchase.

"By way of policy, the government should make a shift in three years and should not be renting office spaces anymore", according to Senator Chiz Escudero, Chairman of the Finance Committee in the Senate. The senator said renting spaces at a cost is like throwing money down the drain. "Yes, we need spaces and buildings to operate and function properly. But renting is a short term solution with no long term gains in terms of helping us to efficiently allocate scarce resources." (Source: Manila Bulletin, Aug. 9, 2013).

For more information on the Calabarzon Regional Government Center, visit www.mtdphilippines.com or www.facebook.com/CalabarzonRGC. MTD Philippines, Inc. is located at Taguig City and can be contacted through (02) 6214143/44. For reservations, contact Marketing c/o Sandra Paredes at 09178271891 or at stparedes@mtdphilippines.com.