

**PRESS RELEASE
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MERCY Malaysia & Maybank team up to rehabilitate Nasunugan Elementary School

Ormoc City, Philippines, May 12th, 2015 – A joint effort by the MERCY Malaysia and the Maybank Foundation brought much relief to the community in Barangay Nasunugan, following the successful reconstruction of the Nasunugan Elementary School that was severely devastated by Typhoon Haiyan in November 2013. The new school was designed to withstand typhoons which are a common phenomenon in Philippines. Both MERCY Malaysia and Maybank Foundation accomplished their mission to reduce the vulnerability of the community by providing a safe and comfortable learning environment for the students in the barangay.

“By constructing the school to withstand typhoons and earthquakes, it will also function as an evacuation centre during a disaster with the capacity to accommodate the people of the barangay” said President of MERCY Malaysia, Dato’ Dr Ahmad Faizal Mohd Perdaus

Nasunugan Elementary School is located in Barangay Nasunugan, Ormoc City. The barangay has a population of 1,643 and the school is the only elementary school that serves the area. The school, which has 246 students ranging from kindergarten to grade 6 was originally donated by an individual to the barangay. It had been managed and financed by the Department of Education as well as parents of the students. The majority of the students come from low income families who depend on farming as their main source of income.

Maybank Foundation CEO Shahril Azuar Jimin stated that the rehabilitation efforts were in line with Maybank’s mission to humanise financial services as well as the Foundation’s commitment to support communities affected by natural disasters.

“When we heard of the devastation wrought by the typhoon, we were concerned that education of the students would be affected, and hence we got together with MERCY Malaysia to remedy this,” he said. *“This effort to rebuild the school which is a significant part in the lives of some 400 families there displays Maybank’s commitment to be in the heart of the communities it serves. Our hope is that it will ensure the sustainable provision of education to the community within the barangay and help the children look forward to a brighter future.”*

The school consists of a 4-block wooden structure comprising seven classrooms where each classroom is complemented with a toilet, blackboard and a notice board as well as electric fans and lighting fixtures. There are also common facilities within the school compound such as a common toilet, a canteen and a nursery for vegetable seedlings.

Typhoon Haiyan hit the Philippines on November 8, 2013 and brought great destruction in



its path. More than 8,000 people died or are still missing due to this typhoon. Ninety three out of 97 schools in Ormoc City were damaged and Nasunugan Elementary School was one of the schools most severely affected in all four of its blocks. Two blocks lost their roofs while the other two blocks sustained even greater damage with the roof and its structures including the frames and beams, damaged. Five classrooms sustained total damage while the other two experienced partial damage. The school also lost most of its instructional materials such as books, school files, and test papers.

The school was unable to recover on its own after the typhoon as it lacked financial resources. However with the assistance of workers from the barangay as well as support from MERCY Malaysia and the Maybank Foundation, the school was rehabilitated in early December 2014 and was fully operational by the third week of December 2014. The swift rehabilitation efforts by MERCY Malaysia and Maybank Foundation were instrumental in ensuring that the school could function as soon as possible.

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For more information, please contact:

Jillian Louis, Communications Officer, MERCY Malaysia

E: jillian@mercy.org.my T:+603-21422007 (Ext:244) F:+603-2142 1992 M:+6012 313 1229

Megawati Md. Rashidi, General Manager, Communications & Fundraising

E: megawati@mercy.org.my T: T: 6-03-2142 2007 F: 6-03-2142 1992 M: 6-019-314 0062

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About MERCY Malaysia

MERCY Malaysia is a non-profit organisation focusing on providing medical relief, sustainable health-related development and risk reduction activities for vulnerable communities in both crisis and non-crisis situations. MERCY Malaysia recognises the value of working with partners and volunteers as well as providing opportunities for individuals to serve with professionalism. We uphold the Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and NGOs in Disaster Relief and hold ourselves accountable to our donors and beneficiaries. As a non-profit organisation, MERCY Malaysia relies solely on funding and donations from organisations and generous individuals to continue our services to provide humanitarian assistance to our beneficiaries. For more information, please visit www.mercy.org.my

How is MERCY Malaysia funded?

To ensure independence and impartiality, MERCY Malaysia relies on donations from the general public for financial support. A portion of our income is obtained from institutional donors, individual government grants and other international organizations, which are given on project basis. MERCY Malaysia spends 80% of its income in carrying out its relief operations and support.

Important Note to Media: Usage of Wordmark MERCY Malaysia

In order to avoid confusion with other organisation(s) that uses "Mercy" as the organisation's name or part of the organisation's name, please take note that in addressing the name of our organisation, the wordmark for MERCY Malaysia is with capitalised "MERCY", followed by the word "Malaysia". When describing the organisation, the term "MERCY Malaysia" must always be used in full, and should not be partially referred to as "MERCY", or "Mercy". Thank you for your cooperation.

About Maybank Foundation

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create meaningful, measurable and sustainable impacts that differentiate it from its competitors and complement its mission to humanise financial services.

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