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NEWS RELEASE

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Villar Dedicates Memorial to Typhoon Sendong Victims

(Cagayan De Oro)—Senator Manny Villar and Cynthia Villar, Chairman and Managing Director respectively of Villar Foundation, led the dedication and groundbreaking ceremony of a memorial that will be built to honor the memory of those who died and went missing when tropical storm Sendong ravaged Cagayan De Oro on December 17 last year.

“Sendong” will be remembered as one of the country’s worst natural calamities that ever hit Mindanao. It claimed the lives of more than 1,000 people and hundreds are still missing. Nearly 150,000 people were affected and millions worth of livelihood were also lost.

‘Sendong Memorial’ will be built inside the Golden Haven Memorial Park in Bulua, Cagayan De Oro City. It will occupy an area of around 716 square meters.

The Villars have engaged the services of Mr. Frederick Peter Altavas, President of the Philippine Association of Landscape Architects and one of the country’s leading landscape architects, to create the Sendong Memorial.

The memorial will be made of travertine and black granite base. It will feature an ascending circular marker in the middle, accented by a water fountain. Serving as a backdrop are 13 pillars where the names of the over 500 confirmed and identified dead will be engraved. Relatives of Sendong casualties may still coordinate with the city government to have the names of their relatives included on the memorial.

The Sendong Memorial will have this dedication.

“In loving remembrance of those affected by Tropical Storm Sendong that ravaged Cagayan de Oro on December 17, 2011:

those who perished and those they left behind,

the unsung heroes who risked their lives so others may live

and those who generously gave so that others may start life anew

May the pain and loss be not in vain, and serve as a reminder to everyone to care for Nature so that She may continue to nurture us.

May the Lord help us all.