

## Fort Bonifacio Development Corp.: Powering Through the Masterplan



**With the appropriate power infrastructure and related services, FBDC continues the transformation of the former military base to a premier mixed-use destination**

Bonifacio Global City is one of the most vibrant and dynamic destinations in the country today. Apart from all those buildings rising, there are restaurant and retail openings right and left, as well as art exhibits and sporting events almost every weekend. After what appeared to be a slow start, the former military base is well on its way into becoming the country's premier residential, commercial, and business hub.

It all started with one masterfully crafted plan, says Manny Blas, head of commercial operations of Fort Bonifacio Development Corporation (FBDC). As he explains, the plan accounts for just about everything that is happening, and will happen, in Bonifacio Global City. Spaces have been identified according to their specific purpose, whether residential, office, or retail. Streets have been mapped to ensure optimum traffic flow. Utilities have been designed to bear the load of a fully developed Bonifacio Global City.

Take the case of power, for example. Blas reveals, "The main thing is that Meralco was part of the master plan from the beginning. It wasn't, 'We need it now. Let's find a way to see how this thing can connect.' But because Meralco was a partner from the start and we are aligned in terms of how we want to develop the city, then the steps toward full development are well-coordinated."

In collaboration with Meralco, FBDC identified four areas where substations were to be built. One substation is already running, in line with the current development status in BGC, which is at 30 percent of the master plan, according to Blas. The other substations are scheduled for completion by 2017.

But more than its faithful commitment to its master plan, what makes living in Bonifacio Global City such a joy are the details, the stuff that gives BGC a distinct sense of place. It's how utility lines never hinder your view of the horizon. It's how you always seem to bump into a network of streets filled with stores and restaurants to hang out in. It's the way you're suddenly confronted with a great piece of art while you're walking down a street, or have the opportunity to explore the world-class learning facility that is the Mind Museum whenever you want to. The science museum, the first of its kind in the country and built at the cost of PHP1 billion, cements FBDC's belief that "science literacy is the currency of this age and of that to come," to quote the words of the New York Times' science writer Natalie Angier.

By helping shape young minds and following the company's grand plans, FBDC holds the keys to what could possibly be one great city.