

Alfred Vargas among this year's TOYM awardees

ACTOR and Quezon City Representative **Alfred Vargas** has been chosen as this year's The Outstanding Young Men (TOYM) honoree for Public Service.

"I never expected that one day I would stand here today as an honoree and counted alongside my idols and the movers and shakers of our nation," Vargas said as he accepted the award Friday night.

Vargas was recognized by TOYM for his efforts in providing affordable house and lot to several communities in Quezon City.

"*Hindi biro ang usapin ng pabahay at palupa* in Metro Manila, especially in Quezon City in Novaliches area where we have the 60 percent of informal settler families (ISFs)," the lawmaker said.

"After several challenges like lack of funds, three death threats *mula sa mga sindikato*, disagreements between stakeholders, *f o r m u l a t i n g* sustainable solutions, and finding common ground regarding these solutions, and many more, here are a few things I've learned: First, everyone's voice should be heard, especially the voices of the urban poor; secondly, all big things start from small beginnings; and, always stand by your principles," he continued.

The Palupa program of Vargas was successful in providing several ISFs with

their own house and lot within Quezon City.

Vargas was also recoanized for being the pricipal advocate of the National Integrated Cancer Control Act (NICCA). He dedicated his award to his mother, who died of cancer in 2014.

"No Filipino family deserves to lose their loved ones, give up their savings, their house, their livelihood, and end up buried in debts at the same time just because cancer cane

knocking at their doors. Now, *makakasama nyo ang gobyerno sa laban ngcancer. Hindi kayo nag-iisa. Bawat Pilipino magtutulungan, pribado man o gobyerno,*" he stressed. **Continued on C3**



TOYM recognizes Rep. Alfred Vargas' efforts in providing affordable house and lot to several communities in Quezon City.