

## Unveiling of new landmark marks Jack's Ridge 10th yr

BY MARIANNE SABERON-ABALAYAN *Reporter*

THE opening of the new Karlo's Gourmet and Coffee and the unveiling of the new Davao landmark at its rotunda marked the 10th anniversary of Jack's Ridge Resort and Restaurant at Shrine Hills, Matina on Saturday night.

Jack's general manager Makee Mercado said: "This landmark is our offering to all Dabawenyos who have patronized Jack's Ridge for the past 10 years. With this new landmark, Jack's Ridge will even more become a major tourist destination in Davao City although we have already established that reputation over the years."

She was referring to the city's five popular icons -- the durian, waling-wal-

ing orchid, Philippine Eagle, Mt. Apo and pomelo -- all sculpted into the word DAVAO by homegrown talent Lamberto Aquiatan.

Mercado along with her family led by father, Jack, who is fondly called Meloy, also led the opening of the new Karlo's Gourmet and Coffee.

"I've overshoot the budget for the landmark and this gourmet but I'm very satisfied with the outcome. We did a facelift of what used to be just a coffeeshop. We will be serving mostly French and Italian dishes aside from a little Chinese, Mexican or Filipino food. Our coffee that Dabawenyos love will still be available in hot or cold concoctions," she told the reporters.

Mercado said she put to good use her culinary arts degree from Vancouver, Canada in putting up the gourmet restaurant. She is the supervisory chef and made the menu with the help of another chef.

She added, "Future plans include renovations of existing amenities, adding more cottages and building a two-storey or three-storey hotel. We still have a huge land to develop since only one-third of our three-hectare land had been utilized so far."

Jack's Ridge and Restaurant has indeed come a long way from what used to be just a nipa hut rest house of her dad, Meloy.

Meloy reminisced: "I

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bought the land 10 years ago with a vision to put up a resort and restaurant. Being in pomelo production, I really had no background about such field but I ended up to be the main designer of the resort (laughs). Since we opened, every year we add an amenity after another to make it a one-stop tourist and family destination."

Thus, there's now the Taklobo Restaurant, Kai's Bar and Grill, BMW Piano and KTV Bar, Amphitheater, Penmar Hall 1 and 2, conference room, souvenir shop and Kool Kar's Pool aside from the Karlo's Gourmet and Coffee. **MLSA**

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