

## PPA set to remit an all-time high P3.5B in dividend for 2018

**The Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) maintained its strong financial performance, as it is set to remit another all-time high in dividend to government.**

After posting some P3.01 billion for 2017, its highest total remitted since its existence, the PPA is about to remit to government a whopping P3.52 billion in total dividend for 2018.

"We were able to do this in spite of the PPA's massive infrastructure spending in support of the Government's Build, Build, Build Program," Santiago said.

"PPA will continue to introduce reforms in the agency specifically in port operations in order to ease

the burden of doing business with the Authority, which we expect to eventually translate to better service to the public and lower market prices of commodities," Santiago added.

PPA is mandated to remit 50% of its annual net income to the National Government after it was granted fiscal autonomy during the term of President Corazon C. Aquino. In the last 10 years, the PPA

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## PSA recognizes Ports Authority for ASPBI contributions

**The Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) has rewarded the efforts of the Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) for the success of its Annual Survey of Philippine Business and Industry (ASPBI).**

PSA conferred such award to the PPA in a simple ceremony held on 21 January 2019. PPA was the sole recipient of such from the PSA for the 2016 edition of the ASPBI.

"The PPA is very honored to receive this award as we do not expect anything in return for any help that we extend to our fellow government agency," PPA General Manager Jay Daniel R. Santiago said.

"Nonetheless, we welcome this award as this will only further encourage the men and women of the PPA to work harder in rendering unparalleled public service," Santiago stressed.

"The PPA is and will always be your partner towards nation-building and in giving better lives for every Filipino," Santiago added.

The ASPBI, meanwhile, contains the results of the survey on the structure, trends, and levels of economic activity in the Philippines. It contains statistical tables on national and regional levels that include data on number of establishments, employment, compensation, revenue, costs, fixed assets, capital expenditures, inventories, and value added by industry classification for easy reference by data

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## PPA Knowledge Center to go online soon

**The Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) is set to launch its newest Knowledge Center accessible to everybody.**

Run by the PPA Training Institute, the PPA Knowledge Center will initially offer an online public access catalogue (OPAC) system for the inventory of books in its library including PPA issuances.

Made under the open platform Koha, the Knowledge Center will be accessible via desktop or laptop computers as well as any mobile devices that has access to the internet.

PPA General Manager Jay Daniel R. Santiago explained that the PPATl is slowly building up its muscle to aid PPA regular employees in their continuing professional education as well as provide reference materials to its outsourced personnel and students from universities.

"Since the E-Library or this so-called Knowledge Center will eventually be

link to PPA's other online portals, it will make PPA closer to the public," Santiago stressed.

"PPA is not only working to improve the capability of its ports. Hand-in-hand, we are also improving the capacity of our personnel by making their life easier by bringing information on their fingertips," Santiago added.

The OPAC, meanwhile, will be available 24/7 by virtue of the open-access software it is using. While some of its capabilities like book tracking, reservation and pick-up schedule will only be made available to PPA regular employees as of the moment, the public can access available books manually at the PPA Library located at PPA Training Institute Gate 4, South Harbor, Port Area, Manila. ■

## Sail from better ports

**Among the most frenetic activities in the maritime sector is happening under the two and a half years of the Duterte administration with no less than 160 projects having been started.**



The details of that is these are implemented all over the Philippines and it involves putting up of ports, terminals, improving belting and different other undertakings.

Among these projects is the strategic reopening of the biggest passenger terminal with a capacity of 3,000 passengers in Tubigon, Bohol after the damage it sustained during a magnitude

7.2 earthquake five years ago had been repaired.

The repair and renovation of the port was fast-tracked after an inspection conducted by Transportation Secretary Arthur Tugade in March 2018.

The repair was completed in less than nine months and the port can now accommodate 28 ships, including larger

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## 1st Mindanao Governance & Leadership Excellence Awards: PM Butaslac among top Mindanao leaders

**By his stewardship and earned trust from stakeholders that brought about laudable feats for the Port of Cagayan de Oro and the entire Port Management Office of Misamis Oriental/ Cagayan de Oro, Port Manager Isidro V. Butaslac, Jr. was honored as one of the top leaders in Mindanao under the Civil Service category.**

The award was given during the 1st Mindanao Governance and Leadership Excellence Awards (MGLEA) ceremony held on 07 March 2019 at Limketkai Luxe Hotel.

This newly-launched award program is aimed to give due recognition to the government and private sector leaders who effect positive changes in their respective communities and organizations that beget into winning various achievement awards. The award-giving body presented awards to leaders under various categories: a.) government sector—national, provincial, municipal, and barangay LGUs; and Civil Service; b) private sector—civic organizations, NGOs, social clubs, and youth.

The award presenter, the

Mindanao Daily News, duly noted that under the Port Manager's sound leadership, the Port of Cagayan de Oro was recognized as one of the Green Port Award System (GPAS) winners for 2018 by the APEC Port Services Network (APSN) among the candidate ports from the 18 member economies of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC); and the port's initiative and programs for environmental protection was cited as a best practice by the Development Academy of the Philippines under its Government Best Practice Recognition (GBPR) 2018.

The award-giving body believed that the awardees have shown good governance and leadership traits and best practices and have demonstrated that their actions are for greater cause instead of for personal gains. ■



#### CERTIFIED!

*The PPA Port Management Office of Marinduque - Quezon has been awarded its Quality Management System (ISO 9001:2015) Certification, a big milestone for one of PPA's newest PMOs. The port joined 15 other PPA ports having the same certification. ■*



# Overstaying port containers get the boot with Manifesto on efficient port utilization

Overstaying containers in ports nationwide will soon be cleared, as the Department of Transportation (DOTr), Philippine Ports Authority (PPA), Bureau of Customs (BOC), together with port management officials, inked a Manifesto of Support today, 15 March 2019, for the efficient utilization of Philippine ports.



The manifesto of support aims to prevent the imbalance of inbound and outbound containers borne by the unscrupulous practice of using the ports for prolonged storage of their containers until the withdrawal of goods will yield to maximum profit.

DOTr Secretary Arthur Tugade witnessed the manifesto signing, which was inked by BOC Commissioner Rey Leonardo Guerrero, PPA General Manager Jay Daniel Santiago, International Container Terminal Services Inc. (ICTSI) Senior Vice President Christian Gonzales, Asian Terminals Inc. (ATI) Senior Vice President Sean Perez, and Association of International Shipping Lines President Patrick Ronas.

"I give my full commitment and full happiness in witnessing the manifesto. Signing this manifesto is one thing, doing and implementing it is another, and going beyond it will equally spell good business relationships within the country... This is not for show. This is for real," Secretary Tugade emphasized.

Under the manifesto, the PPA will publish a Notice in a newspaper of general circulation, directing all cargo owners, shippers, consignees, logistics operators, and customs brokers to withdraw cleared containers currently being stored at ports within fifteen (15) days from the date of publication. Failure to comply will lead to the transfer of containers to designated Inland Container Depots by the ATI and ICTSI, at the expense of the concerned

parties.

Additionally, cleared containers by the BOC that were not removed from the port within thirty (30) days will also be transferred by ATI and ICTSI to their respective Inland Container Depots.

Aside from the removal of overstaying containers, ATI and ICTSI shall regularly provide the government with information on the health of their respective ports, and information on containers that have stayed at the port for at least thirty (30) days from arrival.

"Today is a milestone as all stakeholders from the private sector and the government have come together to implement a sustainable solution to face the problems in our ports," PPA GM Santiago said.

Meanwhile, international shipping lines are required to promptly remove containers from the Philippines within the period prescribed by the BOC, either by their regular call vessels or by sweeper vessels. The BOC will regularly dispose of seized or abandoned containers to ensure that the Manila International Container Terminal (MICT) and South Harbor (SH) are efficiently utilized.

"We are committed to make sure that our ports remain efficient. Rest assured that the BOC will continue to support undertakings such as this to boost revenue and to improve our position globally as a major player in the industry," BOC Commissioner Guerrero said. ■

# PPA donates land to informal settlers, sets aside P1B more to develop the area

Resonating the Duterte administration's drive for social responsibility, five hectares of government land will be donated for the relocation of at least 2,086 informal settler families (ISFs) long living on Isla Puting Bato in Manila.

The Department of Transportation (DOTr), through the Philippine Ports Authority (PPA), signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) on Tuesday, in collaboration with the National Housing Authority (NHA), local government unit (LGU) of Manila, International Container Terminal Services, Inc. (ICTSI), and the Manila North Harbor Port, Inc. (MNHPI).

Through the MOU, the ISFs from Isla Puting Bato are now beneficiaries of new housing units in the five-hectare property owned by the PPA in Tondo, Manila.

DOTr Secretary Arthur Tugade, who also chairs the PPA Board, commended the collaborative efforts of all parties, and vowed to increase the capacity to benefit more ISFs.

"Napakaganda ng balita na ipinamahagi sa atin ng PPA na kung saan sila po ay magbibigay o magdo-donate ng five hectares para sa relocation ng mga kababayan natin sa tubig. Ito 'ho ay mag-a-accommodate ng 2,400 families na target natin (This is a very good news the PPA has imparted to us where they will donate five hectares for the relocation of our fellowmen living in the area. This would accommodate 2,400 families which is our target)," Tugade said.

PPA general manager Jay Santiago announced the good news during the regular session of the House committee on housing and urban development, which was held remotely at Rosauro Almario Elementary School in Tondo, Manila.

Santiago assured that ISF beneficiaries will receive legal protection for ownership of the housing units, as documents are being prepared to prevent their eviction. PPA targets to secure the beneficiaries up to 25 years. The land property, meanwhile, will remain



under government ownership.

"Peligroso po 'yung nasa malapit sila sa katubigan. Ito po ay hindi magiging pagmamay-ari ng kung sinuman kundi ng pamahalaan pa rin. Mayroon po tayong dokumentasyon na kasiguruhan na kung sinuman ang benepisyaryo ay hindi siya mapapaalis diyan sa units na gagawin (It is hazardous to be living near the waterway. This [property] will not be owned by anyone else but the government. We have documentation to ensure that the beneficiaries would not be evicted from their units)," Santiago said.

Currently, a rail line of the Philippine National Railways (PNR) runs through the relocation area for the Isla Puting Bato ISFs. Both the DOTr and the PNR agreed to adjust the rail line to give way to the housing plan.

"Gagawa tayo ng paraan para magkaroon ng balance nang sa ganoon, 'yung hangarin natin sa kabuuan na mapaayos ang kalagayan ng mga pamilya ay mabigyan ng katuparan (We will make a way to strike a balance to

achieve our goal of giving them [ISFs] decent homes," Tugade said.

"The PNR will redesign its alignment of the said property to allow NHA and their actual occupants to use it. We would make available the 1,064 square meters that was requested by the Key Shelter Agencies that they would require for the fruition of the project," PNR general manager Junn Magno added.

Meanwhile, House Speaker Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo expressed joy over the MOU signing, as the relocation plan was unattended for nearly 15 years until now.

"I am very happy with the developments to finally give the people of Isla Puting Bato a place they can call home," Arroyo said.

Senator Cynthia Villar also conveyed her excitement for the relocation of the ISFs, which coincides with the full rehabilitation of the Manila Bay.

"Not only are we giving our citizens on Isla Puting Bato proper shelter, but we are giving the Manila Bay a chance to return to its former glory," she said. ■



## Sec. Tugade inaugurates Tubigon Port

**DOTr Secretary Arthur Tugade leads the inaugural ceremony for the newly renovated Tubigon Port in Bohol on 05 January 2019.**



The primary dock for vessels plying the Tubigon-Cebu City route, the port has now expanded its capacity to accommodate up to 28 ships including larger vessels, nearly thrice its previous capacity of 10 ships.

Its air-conditioned Passenger Terminal Building can now house 4,000 passengers daily, a substantial increase from its previous 1,500-passenger capacity.

The rehabilitation project also includes the establishment of a one-stop shop for a more convenient clearing and payment of port charges; the repair of the pedestrian covered walkway, lighting system, security fence and gate; and improvements on the port access road.

The Tubigon Port is the best option for travelers from Bohol going to Cebu and vice versa because of the short travel time, numerous transport schedules, cheap fares and availability of public vehicles that ply routes to any point in Bohol. ■

## PPA set to remit...

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was able to remit to government at least a billion in dividend annually from its income.

Total revenues for 2018, on the other hand, is recorded at P17.495 billion or some 14% higher than the P15.356 billion revenues accumulated a year earlier.

The strong financial performance of the PPA for 2018 is attributed to the positive output from its Manila ports composed of the Manila International Container Terminal operated by International Container Terminal Services, Inc., the Manila South Harbor, run by Asian Terminals, Inc., and the North Port, managed by Manila North Harbour Port, Inc., complemented by the PPA's 24 other Port Management Offices, which likewise posted favorable performances in the past year.

Currently, the PPA is undertaking more than 100 port projects ranging from repair and maintenance,

improvement and infrastructure facilities since the start of the Duterte administration. In 2018, PPA allotted close to P8 billion to carry out the said projects.

PPA is also in the process of migrating from the Quality Management System to the Integrated Management System for all its Port Management Offices to further align the country's ports to world's best practices. Currently, there are 7 ports undergoing IMS transition while 2 ports have already been IMS-certified. The remaining 16 ports are set to follow suit. The IMS covers three international standards namely: ISO 9001:2015 (Quality); ISO 14001:2015 (Environment) and, OHSAS 18001:2007 (Occupational Safety and Health).

"With this strong performance, the PPA expects to maintain its place in the 'billionaires club' of Government Owned and Controlled Corporation remitting dividends to government," Santiago said.

"With 2019 being a milestone year for PPA as it is set to mark its 45th founding anniversary, we expect an even better performance," Santiago added. ■

## Sail from better...

*from Page 2*

sea vessels, which is almost three times more than its previous capacity of 10 ships. It also has three roll-on, roll-off (RoRo) wharfs for docking landing craft tanks and barges.

Its air-conditioned passenger terminal building can serve about 4,000 passengers daily from the previous 1,500 and provides a child care station facility. It also has enhanced security facilities, including a baggage x-ray machine and a walk-through metal detector.

The rehabilitation of the Tubigon port included the establishment of a one-stop shop for a more convenient clearing and payment of charges; the repair of the pedestrian covered walkway, lighting system, security fence and gate and improvements on the port access road.

"The rehabilitation of the Tubigon port forms part of the government's infrastructure plan to further develop Bohol's economy, which was severely affected by the devastating quake that left hundreds dead and billions of pesos worth in damage," the PPA said.

The Tubigon port will serve as a primary dock for sea vessels traversing the Tubigon-Cebu City route and an alternative mode of transportation for travelers from Bohol going to Cebu and vice versa due to its shorter travel time, numerous transport schedules, affordable fares and availability of public vehicles that ply the routes to any point in Bohol.

The port serves as a primary dock for sea vessels traversing the Tubigon-Cebu City route and an alternative mode of transportation for travelers from Bohol going to Cebu.

"That is completed to shorten the 19 hours needed to sail between Bohol and Cebu. Why are the projects all over the Philippines? No brainer. The Philippines is an archipelago. Because it is an archipelago, it has multiple islands which needed connectivity," he said.

"That is where the concept of the former President who is now the Speaker, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, that is the nautical highway. So that is the blueprint for the maritime. We are developing the ports and expanding them. When

you travel throughout the country, you will feel sorry for some places where there are no ferry operations," he said.

"So we are putting those up. Total, 160 projects in two and a half years, I will presume that those constitute good performance," Tugade said.

Tugade added lighthouses are also being refurbished. "Those lighthouses are mostly not operational, now we are rehabilitating them since it was lost to us that lighthouses are also navigational tools. "The objective is that all lighthouses become operational," he added.

On maritime security, Tugade said the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), which is under his agency, had acquired fast boats.

"In the fast, the terrorists like the Abu Sayyaf use faster vessels than the PCG. Now we have fast crafts. We have 90 meters, 24 meters and we have increased the personnel to operate these boats," he said.

Also the K9 operations of the PCG have improved through 400 dogs to help in securing ports.

Marina also recently opened new RoRo missionary routes which means direct points connecting ports that have no existing shipping services due to their location, Tugade said.

These routes are: Basco, Batanes to Currimaao, Ilocos Norte; Batangas City to San Jose, Occidental Mindoro; San Juan, Batangas to Abra de Ilog, Occidental Mindoro; Real, Quezon to Polillo Island, Quezon; Lucena, Quezon to Odiongan, Romblon; Lucena, Quezon to Buyabod, Marinduque; Lucena, Quezon to Romblon, Romblon; Lucena, Quezon to Masbate City; Maasin, Southern Leyte to Ubay, Bohol; San Narciso, Quezon to San Pascual, Masbate; Pantao, Albay to San Pascual, Masbate; Calbayog City, Samar to Cataingan, Masbate; Taytay, Palawan to Cuyo, Palawan to San Jose de Buenavista, Antique; Oslob, Cebu to Dumaguete, Negros Oriental; Punta Engano, Mactan Island, Cebu to Jetafe, Bohol; Poro, Camotes, Cebu to Isabel, Leyte; Lipata, Surigao del Norte to Dapa, Surigao del Norte and Siaton, Negros Oriental to Dipolog City. (*The Daily Tribune*) ■

## PSA recognizes...

*from Page 1*

users. It also presents comparative table showing summary results of current and previous years. ASPBI data assist planners in the government and private sector in the formulation of policies and economic development plans.

ASPBI is part of PSA's Data Dissemination Forum consisting of presentations of the results of the ASPBI and SICT wherein its objectives include information about the latest results of the ASPBI and SICT as well as a venue for the discussion of the issues and comments on the results and to recognize selected

sample establishments who provided timely, quality and accurate data to ASPBI and SICT.

PPA, on the other hand, is making all its data available to the public through different avenues that include electronic forms like the e-FOI, periodic reports posted on its official website and annual publications.

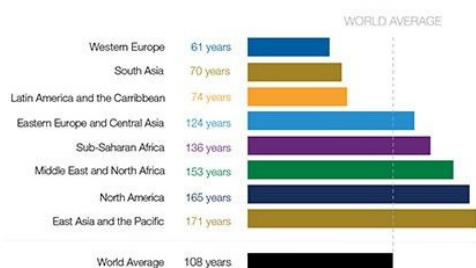
The agency is also in the process of QMS-certifying certain processes in its operations in order to further align its processes to world standards making access to statistics and information even easier.

"PPA is working for the people. It is our duty to be a model corporate agency of the government and give the public a chance to build a community around our ports," Santiago said. ■

# Philippines tops gender equality in Asia, improves global ranking

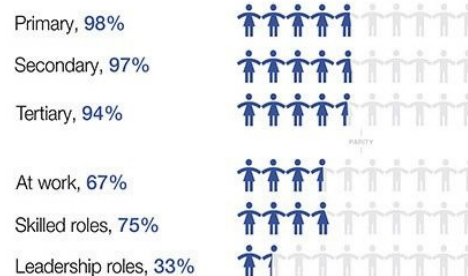
The Philippines remains as one of the most gender equal countries worldwide with equal opportunities on political and economic leadership for men and women, a World Economic Forum (WEF) report showed.

When are regions likely to close the economic gender gap?



Source: Global Gender Gap Report 2018, World Economic Forum

Equally skilled, where's the progress?



Source: Global Gender Gap Index 2018, World Economic Forum



Manila ranked 8th in this year's Global Gender Gap report, higher by 2 notches from last year's ranking. It was the only Asian country in the top 10.

Iceland was hailed as the most gender-equal country this year, followed by Norway, Sweden, Finland and Nicaragua, respectively.

Other countries that made it to the top 10 are Rwanda at 6th, New Zealand at 7th, Ireland at 9th, and Namibia at 10th.

Since the report was launched in 2006, the Philippines has consistently been in the top 10, with the WEF attributing this year's rise to "full parity" on political and economic leadership.

The WEF also noted that the Philippines was near to closing 80 percent of its overall gender gap, the "highest value" for the country ever recorded by the index.

The Philippines also recorded a closer gender gap in terms of economic participation and opportunity due

to an increase in wage equality for similar work, the WEF said.

In terms of educational attainment, the Philippines ranked first, meaning it has fully closed the gender gap, along with Canada, France, and New Zealand among others.

The report, however, noted that Manila needs to improve in closing the gender gap in its health and survival category.

Worldwide, the report noted that the global gender gap across a range of areas will not close for another 108 years. The gender gap in the workplace meanwhile will take over 2 centuries more to close.

Released on Tuesday, the 2018 Global Gender Gap Report benchmarked 149 countries on their progress towards gender parity based on political empowerment, labor force participation, educational attainment, and health and survival. (abs-cbn news) ■