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PPA to bid out 3 port projects worth about P1 billion

The Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) is looking for takers in developing three major port projects to support the tourism and economic development of the country.

The port projects, worth about P951.68 million, include the continuing modernization of the Currimao Port in Ilocos Norte, the expansion of the Coron Port in Palawan and the improvement of the Port of Isabela in Basilan.

"Two of these port projects are being undertaken in support of the Government's thrust to promote cruise tourism through modernized terminals while the Basilan port improvement project is a response

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Port of Manila leaps to 32nd spot among top100 container ports

The Port of Manila leaps 4 notches higher finishing at 32nd spot in the list of the 2016 top 100 container ports worldwide.

Manila also jumps one step higher to 22 in the list of Asian ports included in the top 100 container ports.

According to the list released by the Lloyd's List, Manila was able to post very positive performance in 2016 due to the Philippines' booming national economy that increased 6.8% from 5.9% a year earlier.

It also added that the higher volume handled at the Manila Port's international terminals,

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PHILIPPINE PORTS AUTHORITY
A. Bonifacio Drive,
South Harbor, Port Area,
Manila 1018 Philippines
T: (+632) 527-8356
F: (+632) 527-4855
W: www.ppa.com.ph

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CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS STAFF
Philippine Ports Authority
Corporate Office Building,
A. Bonifacio Drive,
South Harbor, Port Area,
Manila 1018 Philippines
Telefax: (+632) 527-4753

FOR ARTICLES/CONTRIBUTIONS, EMAIL TO:
ccs.ppa@gmail.com

PPA, employees union sign 3-yr Collective Negotiation Agreement

The management and the employees' union of the Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) on Tuesday signed a fresh 3-year Collective Negotiation Agreement (CAN) paving the way for symbiotic relationship and top caliber service from the agency.

PPA General Manager Jay Daniel R. Santiago (center, in barong) shakes the hand of PANTALAN National Executive President Emiliano M. Esparaguera, Jr. after forging the new 3-year CNA as the other members of the PPA-PANTALAN Negotiating Panel look on.

The PPA management, represented by General Manager Jay Daniel R. Santiago and PPA employees' union Pambansang Tinig at Lakas sa Pantalan (PANTALAN) represented by national president Emiliano M. Esparaguera, Jr., signed the 6th CNA agreement.

"This is a big development as this only shows the commitment of management to the welfare of its employees, who are the primary assets of the agency," Santiago stressed.

"It likewise underline the desire of both parties to promote the principle of shared responsibility, ensure maximum productivity and employee discipline as well as guarantee career development, humane working conditions and security for the employees," Santiago added.

PANTALAN national executive president Esparaguera, for his part, said the union recognizes that the success of the PPA corporate governance will redound to the best interest of its members.

"PANTALAN shall therefore exercise every effort to pursue the realization of PPA's corporate vision, mission and corporate values," Esparaguera explained.

The features of the new CNA include, among others, the shared responsibility of both parties in employee empowerment, merit promotion and selection and awards and incentives for Service Excellence; PPA and PANTALAN to jointly work for and exert all efforts to ensure the passage of legislative bills that will promote best interest of PPA and its employees; for PANTALAN to police its own ranks to promote discipline, efficiency, harmony, integrity, productivity and professionalism in the delivery of public service; for PPA to ensure the advancement of its employees and adopt a program for career pathing and succession of its employees.

Similarly, both parties also agreed to provide and maintain a Day Care Center at the Head Office or Field Offices for the children of employees, if necessary; provide summer job program for employees' children to employable age, as maybe deemed necessary; PPA to invest in the physical wellness of its employees to ensure that all personnel are physically fit to work; provide a Grievance Machinery for the purpose of strengthening employer-employee relations and resolving conflicts at the lowest possible level in the organization.

"With this, we are expecting the highest quality of public service from all employees of the PPA," Santiago stressed. ■

portside...

PPA now FOI compliant, bags award

The PPA FOI Champions led by PPA General Manager Jay Daniel R. Santiago (2nd from left), Corporate Board Secretary Jasmin Pararuan (2nd from right), Special Assistant to the Corporate Head Adrian S. Sugay (extreme left), and PPA Deputy Corporate Board Secretary Jan Pearl F. Portugal (extreme right).

The Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) is now fully-compliant with the requirements of the Freedom of Information (FOI) reinforcing its earlier commitment to be fully transparent to the public.

The PPA has likewise received a recognition from the Presidential Communications Operations Office (PCOO), one of only three Government Owned and Controlled Corporations recognized by the PCOO along with the Authority of the Freeport Area of Bataan (AFAB) and the National Housing Authority (NHA).

PPA General Manager Jay Daniel R. Santiago said the full compliance with the FOI and the recognition received by the PPA is a testament of the hardwork of the agency to bring it closer to the people.

"This compliance and this award underscore the commitment of the Port Authority to open all its processes to public scrutiny," Santiago said.

"Similarly, the PPA will continue to strive for excellence anchored on transparency and reliability in support to the overall thrust of the current administration of clean governance," Santiago stressed.

In order to be fully responsive to all requests, PPA has its FOI internal database monitoring system and has included in the preparation of its programs the following initiatives to provide a more efficient FOI requests' management, which include introduction of enhancements to its internal FOI monitoring system, compliant with the required FOI registry format; provision of a FOI kiosk to cater the walk-in requesting parties; and PPA-wide orientation seminar to fully inform the employees and document custodians on the Freedom of Information and the PPA FOI Agency Manual.

The PPA full compliance recognition, on the other hand, will be good for one year and will undergo another audit next year.

The FOI is the government's response to the call for transparency and full public disclosure of information. FOI is a government mechanism, which allows Filipino citizens to request any information about government transactions and operations, provided that it shall not put into jeopardy privacy and matters of national security.

The FOI mechanism for the Executive Branch is enabled via eo No. 2, series of 2016. ■

Philippine container traffic soars 53% in January to November

Philippine container traffic went up drastically in the first 11 months of the year anchored on robust shipping and trade atmosphere and heightened domestic demand.

The increase in container traffic, particularly domestic box volume, somehow cushioned the decline in foreign overall volume, specifically export traffic.

Latest data from the Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) showed that total container traffic for the period in review inched up by 53% to 9.084 million twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs) from 5.940 million TEUs a year earlier.

Foreign container traffic, on the other hand, registered a 23.25% increase in container volume to 4.361 million TEUs from 3.538 million TEUs wherein export containerized traffic went up by 37% while import container traffic posted a modest 10% increase.

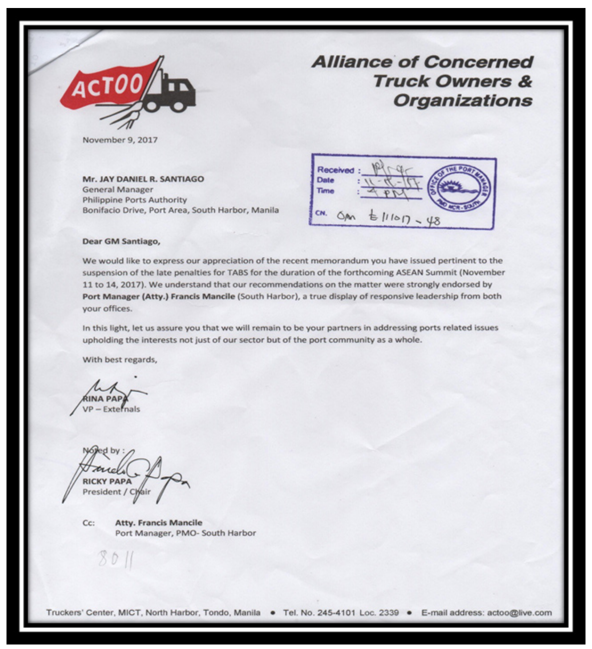
Total cargo volume, on the other hand, registered an almost flat growth of 0.81% for the period in review to 227.312 million metric tons (mmt) from 225.495 mmt a year earlier. Domestic traffic only went up by 2.3% while foreign cargoes registered flat growth.

Passenger traffic, meanwhile, continues to improve as the volume registered in November increased by 4.31% to 64.874 million passengers from 62.192 million passengers in 2016.

"The positive outcome in traffic was propelled heavily by the continued reliance by the sea-traveling public on Ro-Ro vessels, fast crafts, and motorized bancas as primary mode of transportation for domestic inter-island connectivity," PPA General Manager Jay Daniel R. Santiago said.

"In addition, the positive stream in passenger traffic serviced at the ports may have also been the result of favorable response of the public to the government's domestic eco-tourism programs encouraging leisure inter-island Ro-Ro travel to tourist destinations such as Siargao, Puerto Galera, Bohol, Coron, El Nido, and other emerging tourism sites," Santiago added.

Shipcalls likewise increased by 3.27% to 410,384 from 397,397 calls a year earlier wherein domestic shipcalls posted a 3.33% increase to 398,770 calls while foreign ships increased by 1.23% to 11,615 shipcalls. ■



Alliance of Concerned Truck Owners & Organizations

ACTOO

November 9, 2017

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CN. OGM E11017-48

OFFICE OF THE PORT MANAGER PMO NCR-SOUTH

Mr. JAY DANIEL R. SANTIAGO
General Manager
Philippine Ports Authority
Bonifacio Drive, Port Area, South Harbor, Manila

Dear GM Santiago,

We would like to express our appreciation of the recent memorandum you have issued pertinent to the suspension of the late penalties for TABS for the duration of the forthcoming ASEAN Summit (November 11 to 14, 2017). We understand that our recommendations on the matter were strongly endorsed by **Port Manager (Atty.) Francis Mancile** (South Harbor), a true display of responsive leadership from both your offices.

In this light, let us assure you that we will remain to be your partners in addressing ports related issues upholding the interests not just of our sector but of the port community as a whole.

With best regards,

RINA PAPA
VP – Externals

Noted by :

RICKY PAPA
President / Chair

Cc: **Atty. Francis Mancile**
Port Manager, PMO- South Harbor

8011

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PMO NCR-South response to stakeholders needs during the Asean Summit commended

The 24/7 operations at PMO-NCR South during the recent 2017 ASEAN Summit from November 13-15, 2017 was matched by responsive strategies to discourage stakeholders from ceasing operations during the long holiday, and despite fears of heavy vehicular traffic in Metro Manila Streets. It was business as usual, and PMO-NCR South customers are delighted! ■

PPA net income jumps 16% in Jan-Nov

The Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) posted a 16% hike in its net income in the January to November 2017 period despite starting the year on a conservative mood.

PPA, an attached agency of the Department of Transportation, was able to achieve the feat through its sound financial condition and strong Philippine economic status despite having some concerns with the Philippine peso the entire year.

Latest data from the PPA showed that net income for the period in review reached P8.310 billion or some 16% higher than the P7.164 billion posted a year earlier.

The actual figure also eclipsed the forecasted net income of P5.983 billion for the period by P2.326 billion or 38.87%.

PPA General Manager Jay Daniel R. Santiago is ecstatic about the prospect of ending the agency's fiscal year way above the red line despite forecasting to at best flat growth for 2017 due to concerns clouting the mining industry and the volatile foreign exchange rates.

"The performance of the PPA is way above expectation as we were able to eclipsed almost all forecasted levels of the financial facet of the agency," Santiago said.

"We expect an even bigger margin when our December figure starts to come in. Not only for December but for the entire 2017 considering that we overshoot our targets by at least 10% every month until the end of November," Santiago explained.

Total revenues during the 11-month period, meanwhile, grew by 6.71% to P13.846 billion from P12.976 billion collected in the same period in 2016. Port revenue went up by 6.61% to P13.754 billion from P12.901 billion due primarily to increase in volume of traffic at the ports as well as the adjustment in foreign exchange rates. The top five revenue earners are NCR South, Batangas, Davao, Bataan/Aurora, and Surigao.

Fund Management Income (FMI), on the other hand, increased by 22.92% to P91.99 million from P74.84 million for the same period in 2016 anchored on the purchase of a P500 million Treasury Bills, which, in effect, increased the volume of investmentsfunds of the PPA. This facilitated the revamp in earnings and counterweighed the fluctuations in prevailing interest rates on special and high-yield savings deposits and economic uncertainties.

Total expenditures for the period in review fell by 4.73% to P5.537 billion from P5.811 billion in 2016 wherein Operating Expenses amounted to P5.398 billion, down 5% from P5.657 billion a year earlier. Non-operating expenses likewise went down by 9.9% to P139.02 million for the period in review from P154.30 million a year earlier.

"This performance exhibits an overall healthy financial condition with indications of strong ability to service obligations and long-term financial security," Santiago stressed. ■

PPA to bid out...

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to the clamor of the business sector to make Mindanao ports more competitive," PPA General Manager Jay Daniel R. Santiago said.

"The PPA will be using internally-generated revenues to fund these port projects, which are calendared to be completed in the next three years," Santiago explained.

The Port of Currimao project, which involves the extension of the RC Pier, will greatly improve the attractiveness of the port to foreign cruise ship operators as the project, once completed, will give the port the ability to handle bigger cruise ships and provide enough facility to handle cruise passengers. The estimated project cost is P382.80 million.

The Port of Currimao is considered as the cruise tourism gateway of the North. Cruise ship operator Star Cruises included the port in its regular port of rotation connecting Currimao to Taiwan and Hong Kong. The package, however, temporarily ceased end of May this year.

The Port of Coron project, on the other hand, is likewise in support to the booming tourism market of the entire Palawan province, thanks primarily to the tourist-magnet areas like the Coron Bay, the Twin Lagoon, the Sunken Japanese vessel wrecks, among others.

The scope of work for these project includes the extension of its RC Pier as well as the provision of a Back-up area and proper port lighting system, which is estimated to be worth P175.961 million.

Coron Port is the main gateway for domestic vessels with passengers and conventional cargoes as well as the main loading point for fish and fish products bound for Manila.

Lastly, the Port of Isabela project involves the improvement of existing RC Wharf as well as the construction of Ro-Ro ramps and RC platform and a Port Lighting system to enable the port of operate properly at night.

PPA is improving the terminal to lure vessel operators to increase the frequency of ships to the port. The agency is likewise looking at hooking up the port to the country's Ro-Ro system to spur economic growth in the area. Total project cost is pegged at P392.925 million. ■

OIL SPILL EXERCISE

The Port Management Office of Negros Occidental/ Bacolod/Bredco/Banago joined the Oil response drill at the Port ofBcolod City in collaboration with SEAOIL, Pilipinas Shell, Phoenix Petroleumand PCG Bacolod. November 23, 2017. ■

Port of Manila...

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composed of the Manila International Container Terminal (MICT) and the Manila South Harbor, was due to the Terminal Appointment Booking System put into place sometime in 2015. This enables smooth flow of containers resulting in a 13.8% hike in container volume to 4.523 million twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs) from 3.976 million TEUs a year earlier. From the total volume, 2.2 million TEUs were handled by MICT or an increase of 10.8% while 1 million TEUs were handled at the Manila South Harbor for a 19.3% hike. The North Port, the domestic arm of the Manila Port, handled the rest of the volume or some 1.3 million TEUs, an increase of 14.4%.

The country bested other notable international ports in terms of container volume like the ports of Felixtowe (36), Seattle/Tacoma (41), Vancouver (52), Kobe (55), Incheon (58), Nagoya (59), Melbourne (62), London (66), among others.

In Asia, Manila was able to outperform the ports of Jawaharlal Nehru in India, Tanjung Perak (Surabaya) in Indonesia, Kobe, Yokohama and Nagoya in Japan as well as Incheon in South Korea. In the 2016 edition, 53 Asian ports made the list while 47 Asian ports were included in the 2015 list.

"This is a great testament that the Philippines has had very robust economy at least in the past two years," PPA General Manager Jay Daniel R. Santiago said.

"This development also showcased the efficiency and productivity of the country's top international gateways to handle the demands of the global market," Santiago added.

"With the ongoing changes being implemented to achieve excellence, the PPA is indeed on course in achieving its vision to have its ports at par with global standards by 2020," Santiago stressed.

As of the moment, the PPA is implementing several projects in its bid to further improve the efficiency and productivity of the Philippine ports through partnerships with the private sector like in the ports of Manila or through its own initiatives.

Towards this goal, PPA is in the process of modernization and development of the ports of Davao-Sasa, Iloilo, Cagayan de Oro, General Santos and Zamboanga to handle containerized cargo. These five ports have been identified as both strategic and commercially important, with Davao-Sasa being the priority target for development although, on a more conservative and cost-efficient level than originally planned.

PPA is also pursuing its Quality Management System (QMS) compliance in all of its processes to maintain a high level of excellence in the agency. Just recently, PPA was recognized by the Government Quality Management Committee for successfully establishing a QMS Certified to ISO 9001 Standards in compliance with Executive Order No. 605 s. 2007 at the Port Management Offices in Bicol, Palawan, Davao, Misamis Oriental/Cagayan de Oro, SOCSARGEN, Misamis Occidental/Ozamis, Panay/Guimaras, Zamboanga and Batangas.

Also, in July of this year, PPA increased the volume and revenue targets for the agency for 2017 after PPA posted higher than forecasted growth in the first semester of 2017.

"For the year 2017, growth in terms of Gross Domestic Product is at 7.5%, so this should be the guide," Santiago explained.

"The intention is to set a more optimistic revenue commitment taking into account the positive development in the economy during the first half of the year," Santiago added. ■

PPA set to remit highest dividend in its entire corporate life to Nat'l coffers

The Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) is set to remit more than P3 billion in dividend, its highest contribution to the National coffers since 1986.

The state-owned agency's dividend for 2017 also eclipsed by at least 30% all the dividends it remitted to the government at least in the last decade, including its erstwhile record of P2.158 billion remitted in 2015.

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.

According to PPA General Manager Jay Daniel R. Santiago, the agency was able to post record-breaking figures due to the reforms implemented by the new administration.

"This is a clear manifestation that we are reaping the benefits of the reforms management implemented in the last two years, that include among others, reduction of documentary requirements, faster turnaround time of trucks and vessels in ports, and modernization of strategic ports," Santiago exclaimed.

"The continuing review of other processes involving port operations, compliance with the Quality Management Standards, and adoption of world's best practices in port operations will definitely boost PPA's financial standing in the next couple of years," Santiago stressed.

"With the higher dividend, we can guarantee that the National Government can easily implement its anti-poverty measures, particularly in the areas of infrastructure spending and healthcare benefits," Santiago added.

Compared to the 2016 dividend it remitted to the government last year, the 2017 figure is higher by 54% from P1.956 billion due to the strong performance of the 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.

The agency's total expenses for 2017 increased by some 11% as a result of increased productivity in project implementation at a rate of 90% compared to 7% a year earlier.

"This is a very welcome development for the PPA considering that it has forecasted earlier that growth is at best flat for 2017 due to concerns clouting the country's mining industry and the volatile foreign exchange rates," Santiago said.

In the last couple of years, the PPA is a regular member of the 'Billionaires Club' of Government Owned and Controlled Corporations contributing billions of pesos in dividends. With this incoming all-time high dividend by PPA, it is expected to maintain its inclusion in the elite list of GOCCs. ■

END VAW NOW...

Personnel and staff of PMO Agusan joined and expressed its solidarity and support along with the rest of the government employees in Butuan City for the 18 Days Campaign to End Violence Against Women (VAW) last 24 November 2017. A walk from Butuan City Hall down to Caraga Provincial Capitol. ■

MGEC launches revised Gender-Fair Media guidebook

The Media and Gender Equality Committee (MGEC) launched a new guidebook that seeks to eliminate gender stereotyping and promotes gender balance in the participation and representation of women and men across various forms of media and communication.

Gender equality advocates pose for a photo during the launching of the book on December 15, 2017 at the Bayleaf Hotel in Intramuros, Manila.

Launched on December 15 at the Bayleaf Hotel in Intramuros, Manila the "Gender-Fair Media Guidebook (GFMG)" is a practical reference for the media in recalibrating their practice to promote gender sensitivity in all their core processes including the conceptualization, creation, presentation and distribution of media products. It presents current media landscape on reporting women's situations, provides relative laws on women's rights and gives practical tools to evaluate the gender sensitivity of the contents.

The development of the GFMG started in August 2017 through a co-creation and validation workshop with key media organizations and communication-focused civil society organizations. The activity aimed to include women's issues in online and social media, and other emerging issues, which were not captured during the development of the old "Towards a Gender-Fair Media" Guidebook launched in 2013.

PCW Commissioner for Media and the Arts Noreen B. Capili shared that the new guidebook is something more practical and useful.

She noted in her presentation during the launch that from having three separate books, the new guidebook was collapsed into a single document with three parts – Part 1: Setting the Context, Part 2: Practical Guide, and Part 3: Self-Assessment Tools – that gives media practitioners ease of use and access to information on basic gender and development concepts and legal mandates on women's rights.

Aside from the comprehensive compilation of policies and gender concepts, which is hoped to start a change in perspective, the guidebook also possesses a tip on gender-fair language and gender-fairness checklists for news content, entertainment content, advertising content, and communication materials.

In a separate statement, PCW Executive Director Emmeline L. Verzosa expressed her gratitude towards the media practitioners, self-regulatory body representatives and CSOs who dedicated their time and expertise to revise and update the guidebook.

"Our collaboration is a major leap towards the attainment of gender-fairness in the Philippine media as we take cognizance of media's powerful role in the society. When we sensitize the media, it would be easier for us to sensitize our community."

In a separate message, Presidential Communications Operations Office (PCOO) Assistant Secretary Maria Ana Paz Banaag said that government and private media should work hand-in-hand in pushing for positive changes in our society.

"As we deal with current transformations in communications, we should not only create awareness but acceptance and commitment to our role as responsible communicators that may have implications for relations among women in government, media and our fellow Filipinos," Banaag said.

The MGEC is an inter-agency mechanism mandated by the Magna Carta of Women (MCW) to ensure women's equal portrayal in media and film. The Committee is composed of the PCOO, the PCW, Movie Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB), National Telecommunications Commission (NTC), National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA), Optical Media Board (OMB), Film Development Council of the Philippines (FDCP) and Film Academy of the Philippines. ■