



SBFCC NEWS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE
SUBIC BAY FREEPORT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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Where is **SBFCC** in the *RIFT* between two **SBMA** top officials?



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A Congressional Hearing was attended by SBFCC Pres. Rose Baldeo, Exec Dir. Donna May Tamayo, and Dir. Jay Mendoza last June 08, 2017 at the House of Representatives in Manila tackling about the on-going leadership rift between SBMA Chairman Martin Diño and Administrator Amy Eisma.

Prior to the Congressional Hearing it can be recalled that "Dino is claiming to be the true SBMA leader under Executive Order (EO) 340 signed by then President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo in 2004." (Source: *Politiko Central Luzon*)

Eisma's claim to leadership was based on Republic Act 7227 or the "The Bases Conversion and Development Act of 1992" which covers the SBMA."

During the hearing on the issue, Fariñas said it was against the law to have two administrators in SBMA.

(continuation on page 12)



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President's MESSAGE

STABILITY IN BUSINESS AND THE ART OF SURVIVAL

I came across this particular saying written by a wise man (or woman) whose name I could no longer recall: "To exist is to survive unfair choices." and somehow this quote was able to find its way to stick in my head.

For many years now, locators inside the Subic Bay Freeport Zone (SBFZ) have survived the changes in our government leaders; the perpetual cycle of turn-over ceremonies and welcome messages. This is a living proof that indeed, the locators will continue to survive long after the terms of the newly appointed leaders have expired.

But there is now a call to go beyond surviving the fixed terms of our leaders and even go further than just existing... we all need to live.

The general public differentiates existing and living as:

"Living is doing the things you've always wanted to do-fulfilling your dreams, chasing them and doing whatever it takes to catch them. Existing on the other hand, is merely breathing and performing the daily chores."

From a business woman's point of view, I agree that existing is merely doing the routine of our businesses and rounding up the bottom figures, their fluctuations and of course being able to survive the unfair choices.

Living, on the other hand, is being able to move freely (of course within the bounds of what is actually legal), being able to explore other possibilities for our businesses and being able to test new waters in order to take our businesses into new heights.

It is no secret that Subic Bay has unlimited potentials for growth and economic development but until now and unfortunately for some, a lot of businesses are still in the state of simply getting by and existing; in the state of barely surviving. With all of these business potentials, we should all be thriving instead of surviving.

This ongoing leadership row in the SBMA is making it even harder for us to achieve a thriving business atmosphere in the Freeport.

The struggle is real. But is the struggle even necessary to begin with?

Whatever the rift maybe, it should never affect the locators. We should not take sides. If we are forced to take sides in this conflict, then there is no other side to choose than our own. We choose the locators, not because we do not agree with the SBMA but simply because we choose business over politics at any given time and at any given situation.

Unfortunately, we have been affected by this conflict. Many of us have experienced the delays in the business processes and registrations and a lot of us have suffered. This has to stop.

So here we are again at a point where we have to survive this issue. An issue which certainly did not come from us and yet we are the ones greatly affected.

I am sure that we will get through this. We always do. But going back to my opening statement; what is in store for us? Just get by, get through and survive?

I do not like to take sides. In fact, we should not take sides, but somebody in the higher power of the government should really step in and take control of the issue.





President's MESSAGE

Continued...

Fire one of them or fire both but please hire someone with a clear and unquestionable qualifications so we can all go on with our normal business activities and put this fiasco behind us.

If you ask any business leader, they would say that this Subic problem is very simple; treat it like a normal business job hiring. Get a pile of resume, screen all applicants, get the applicant with the most experience in the related field, hire a professional with a good educational background and make sure he or she understands the nature of his or her work. It could have been that simple but then there is politics involved.

Besides, another problem here is that we are not included in the selection process so we have no control or choice in this matter. Again: "To exist is to survive unfair choices" or in our case, the lack of power to choose.

But maybe we should have a say. Maybe we should get more involved or at least the locators should be given the right to recommend a candidate as SBMA Leader. Since our investment is the lifeblood of SBMA's business economy and since we are the ones easily affected by this issue, we should have the power to choose (or at least recommend). My only worry though is that we too might get mixed up in the politics and as you know, there is a thin line that separates business and politics - and there are situations where it is very difficult to discern the difference.

Finally, I urge everyone to be hopeful. This too shall pass and we will be moving forward very soon. We can and we will. How fast or how slow we can move forward is the real question and the answer will depend on how fast or how slow the government can step in and clean up this mess.

So while being hopeful, we should likewise be resilient. Locators need stability in the area, in the community and in the leadership. Our confidence to invest and to invest more relies greatly in stability. But while we are in this shaky situation, I plead that we all exercise resiliency.

In a very short period from now, things might turn around rapidly and we must be ready for that.

Rose B. Baldeo

President

Subic Bay Freeport Chamber of Commerce

Chairman of the Board

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CALENDAR of ACTIVITIES

DATE	TIME	ORGANIZER	EVENT/ACTIVITY	VENUE
JULY				
1	8AM-6PM	RunBikeSwim, Inc.	Tri United 2 Long Distance, Exhibit, Race	SBECC Lounge
2	6AM-12NN	RunBikeSwim, Inc.	Tri United 2 Long Distance Race Day	Acea Beach Resort, SBFZ roads
2	6AM-10AM	Bukas Loob sa Diyos Catholic Charismatic Covenant Community, Iba-Olongapo	Fun Run	Remy Field to Techno Park
6		SBMA Ecology	Launch/Campaign	SBMA Boardwalk
14	1PM-6PM	Most Holy Church of God in Christ Jesus	Thanksgiving of Pastor's and Deacons/Diaconese	SBECC Lounge
14-17		Herbalife Philippines	Conference	SBECC Lounge
23		Primer Group of Companies/ Extribe Inc.	Salomon Xtrail Pilipinas 2017	El Kabayo or Treetop Adventure
23		Red Cross, Olongapo Chapter	Million Volunteer Run	Subic Gym
TBA	4AM	Social Action Center of	Youthnited Color Run	Harbor Point Mall
AUGUST				
01-03	8AM-5PM	Social Security System	Regional In-depth Information Seminar	SBECC Lounge
4		Lyceum of Subic Bay	Acquaintance Party	Remy Field
16		SBMA Tourism Department	Feast of San Roque	San Roque Chapel
19		CRESC Inc.	10th year Anniversary and Family Day	Subic Gym
31		Jocson College Center For Learning and Development in Culture and Arts/ Uyat Artista	Disney's Little Mermaid, an adaptation	Subic Gym
TBA	7AM-5PM	Columban College	Diocesan Regional Convention	SBECC Lounge
SEPTEMBER				
TBA		SBMA Human Resource Management Department	117th Anniversary of the Philippine Civil Service	
2	8AM-6PM	RunBikeSwim, Inc.	Triathlon	SBECC Lounge
3	6AM-12NN	RunBikeSwim, Inc	Triathlon	ACEA Beach Resort/ SBECC/SBFZ roads
08-10 or 15-17	8AM-6PM	Toyota	Vios Cup	
9		Aggressive Line Events	Touge Battle Races	SBFZ roads
10	6AM-12NN	Triathlon Association of the Philippines	2017 Philippine Aquathlon	ACEA Beach Resort / SBFZ roads
21-22		Association of Certified Public Accountants In Public Practice (ACPAPP)	Conference	SBECC-Lounge
28-29	8AM-6PM	International School of Sustainable Tourism	Asia Pacific Natural Landscape Conference	SBECC-Lounge/ Plenary 1
TBA		SBMA Tourism Department	National Tourism Month Celebration	



CALENDAR of ACTIVITIES

DATE	TIME	ORGANIZER	EVENT/ACTIVITY	VENUE
OCTOBER				
04-12		Living Church of God	Conference	SBECC-VIP
07-09		Giro De Pilipinas	Cycling event	SBFZ roads
14-15 or Dec. 09-10/ 16-17		Extribe	Subic International Marathon	Remy Field/ SBFZ roads
14		DK Bison Import Export	Japanese Cultural Show	SBECC Lounge
21	8AM-6PM	RunBikeSwim, Inc.	Tri United 3 BikeKing Half, Exhibit, Race	SBECC
22	6AM-12NN	RunBikeSwim, Inc.	Tri United 3, BikeKing Half	Acea Beach Resort, SBFZ roads
26-29		Giro De Pilipinas	Exhibit, Talks and Bike	SBECC Lounge or Plenary 1
26-28		Metro Olongapo Chamber of Commerce, Inc.	Olongapo City Mardigras	Magsaysay Drive, Olongapo City
TBA		SBMA Tourism Department	Halloween Celebration	
TBA		Chili Grass	Beach Football Event	TBA
NOVEMBER				
06-10		Southeast Asia Zoo		
10-12/ 27-29		Department of Education	National Convention	SBECC-Plenary 1 or 2
17		SBMA Tourism Department	Ceremonial Lighting of the Christmas Tree	Waterfront Boardwalk
17		SBMA	SBMA 25th Anniversary Awarding	
18		St. Agnes Polymedic Clinic	World Diabetes Awareness Day	Remy Field
23-25		Institute of Electronic Engineers of the Philippines	67th Annual General Meeting (AGM) and Convention	SBECC
24		SBMA	SBMA 25th Anniversary Culminating Activity	
24-26		Institute of Electronic Engineers of the Philippines	Convention	SBECC-Plenary 2
27-29		Polytechnic University of the Philippines	Conference	SBECC Lounge
TBA		International School of Sustainable Tourism	Asia-Pacific Landscape Conference and Exhibition	SBECC
DECEMBER				
2		Lindberg AFA4 Branch	Christmas Party	SBECC Lounge
2		Sanyo Denki	Christmas Party	SBECC Plenary 2
8		SBMA	Yearend Thanksgiving Party	SBECC Plenary 2
09-10/ 16-17		Extribe	Subic International Marathon	Remy Field/ SBFZ roads
16		Nicera	Christmas Party	SBECC Plenary 2
22		Tong Lung (Phils.) Metal Industry	Yearend Party	SBECC Plenary 2
25		SBMA Tourism Department	Christmas Celebration	Waterfront Boardwalk
31		SBMA Tourism Department	New Year's Eve	Waterfront Boardwalk





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Subic Bay Sports and Tourism is living up to its name as the No. 1 Prime Destination in Central Luzon and No. 4 in the whole country, with its roster of tourism events and sports activities for the months of April to July 2017.

- April 12, 2017 - Environmental Awareness and Responsible Tourism campaign
- April 12, 2017 - 10-km open water swim from Grande Island to Sampaloc Cove
- April 19-23, 2017 - Commodore's Cup Regatta 2017
- April 29-30, 2017 - TRAP (Triathlon Association of the Philippines)
- May 12-14 - Summer Siren Music Festival at the Waterfront
- May 29-June 01 - Ecotourism Festival
- June 03, 2017 - Regent 5150
- June 12, 2017 - Subic Sailing Independence Day Regatta
- June 18, 2017 - Grande Island Marathon Swim
- June 21, 2017 - 6th UNINTO International conference on Tourism Statistics
- July 07, 2017 - Travel Madness Expo
- July 21, 2017 - Tara Na Sa Norte Travel Fair

VISITING FORCES AGREEMENT

US TROOPS HAVE "BOOTS ON THE GROUND" IN MARAWI

American Special Forces have "boots on the ground" and are helping Philippine troops and police fight Islamic rebels in the Southern town of Marawi, according to US and local officials cited in news reports around the world.

The US embassy in Manila confirmed that US forces aiding Filipino authorities in the war, but denied that they were involved in combat operations. At the request of the government of the Philippines, US Special Operations Forces are assisting the AFP with the on-going operations in Marawi that helps AFP commanders on the ground in their fight against Maute and ASG militants. The US military also confirmed that Special Forces were giving "security assistance and training" to their counterparts in intelligence surveillance and reconnaissance. For security reasons, no specific technical details and the actual number of US troops present in the area were provided by the Pentagon.

Brigadier General Restituto of the AFP also confirmed the US troops were doing what is referred to as situational awareness and that is the sort of assistance being given. He did admit that American forces were carrying rifles and were authorized to shoot if fired upon, which is fairly standard when US troops assist their foreign counterparts on or near a battlefield.

AUSTRALIAN DEFENSE FORCES SET TO TRAIN PH TROOPS TO FIGHT TERROR

Australian soldiers will soon be deployed to the Philippines to help train counterparts in Urban warfare like they have in Iraq, amid fears a rise in extremism and the return of Islamic State fighters could spark widespread unrest in South East Asia.

The move comes as the conflict in Marawi City in the Philippines' southern province of Mindanao against ISIS-backed rebels enters its third month and warnings hundreds of ISIS fighters were regionally amassing to declare a new caliphate.

The Royal Australian Airforce (RAAF) has confirmed two of its P-3 Orion spy aircraft have now conducted missions over Marawi with more missions to come, at the Philippine Government's request, but the training of soldiers would present a dramatic escalation in Regional military engagement and gives overdue recognition the infestation of ISIS-led extremism and violence could destabilise the Asian Region.

Defence Minister Marise Payne condemned the ISIS-inspired attacks in Marawi and said Australia was standing by its ally Philippines.

About 300 ADF personnel have since May 2015 trained more than 23,000 Iraqi Security Forces in urban warfare, including close quarter and street-by-street combat and maximising the use of canon-mounted armoured personnel carriers.

But they have now publicly noted Australia's experience in training troops in Iraq and Afghanistan for urban conflict made them best placed to lead that style of training.

Australia and the Philippines have strong commitment in terms of education, training subject matter, expert intelligence sharing, military assistance engagement and exchanges.

With reports from the Australian Embassy and the AFP Public Affairs Office

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

The Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) once again reiterated their need to hire 21,000 revenue collector examiners to boost its tax collection efforts nationwide, the agency's head said.

BIR Commissioner Cesar Dulay said those who would qualify for the posts would be entitled to Salary Grade 11, with the position of Revenue Collector Examiner 1.

Dulay also revealed his office has asked Congress to exempt BIR employees from the government's salary standardization scheme to enable them a separate salary standard for higher pay to attract the best accountants and lawyers in the agency's ranks.

Dulay said at present, the BIR offers a lawyer a salary of merely Ph 30,000 monthly while lawyers in private firms get at least Ph 50,000. On the other hand, BIR accountants get a pay of only about Ph 25,000 while their counterparts in private firms receive salaries worth no less than Ph 40,000.

He noted higher salaries would also minimize corruption in the BIR. He said BIR has continued reforms found effective since the administration of former President Gloria Arroyo, including the Lateral Attrition Law which imposes sanctions against employees who do not meet targets while giving out rewards to those who hit or even surpass targets.

DOLE URGES COMPANIES TO VOLUNTARILY REGULARIZE WORKERS

As part of the Labor Department's intensified efforts in abolishing unlawful arrangements, Labor Secretary Silvestre H. Bello III has recently issued a labor advisory providing the guidelines for employers in voluntarily regularizing their workers.

Labor Advisory No. 06, series of 2017 states that employers in their respective regions must submit a Letter of Voluntary Commitment to DOLE Regional Offices for a Joint assessment, which will be conducted by the Labor Compliance Officer (LLCO).

In the interest of labor justice and to encourage voluntary regularization of employees, and to ensure the rights of employees to labor standards benefits, self-organization and security of tenure, these guidelines shall be observed," Bello said.



The LLCO assigned by the DOLE Regional director (RD) will inspect the work premises, review the employment records and interview randomly selected workers of the establishments, as well as assist the employer in preparing a Voluntary Commitment Plan (VCP) of the workers to be regularized.

Bello also reiterated that DOLE is serious in implementing DO 174 which took effect on April 03, 2017 to end labor-only contracting and other forms of unlawful contractual arrangements.

BOC SUBIC OPENS ONE STOP SHOP

The Bureau of Customs (BoC) opened on June 28 a one-stop-shop (OSS) trade facility at the Tipo, Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) gate, which reduces a one-day processing time of documents to only four hours.

The facility includes personnel from Customs Enforcement, Custom Clearance, and X-ray equipment to cater to clients' needs, especially port users.

This is the second OSS of BoC. The first one was created in 2015 at the New Container Terminal 1 (NCT-1) to help ease the processing of containerized cargo.

With the OSS, port users no longer need to travel to various government offices to secure their trade documents.

The BoC estimates that the average one-day processing time documents will be reduced to four hours.

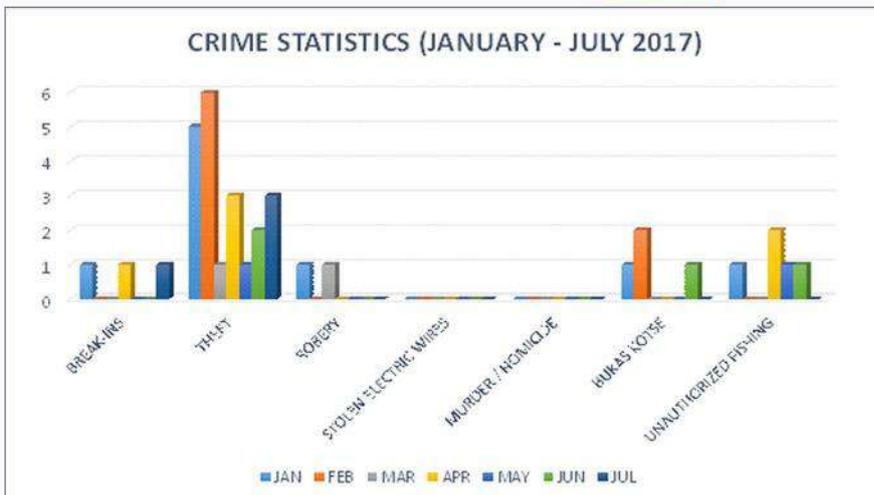
Currently the Department of Finance (DOF) is pilot testing the system called TradeNet, a computerized internet-based system, which will be able to connect Philippines' single window of trade-related agencies with neighboring countries, as it rationalizes and harmonizes all of trade data for faster processing.

The DoF expects the system to be rolled out in September.

with reports from DoF News page

SECURITY, TRAFFIC, RESCUE & DONATIONS

2017	INDEX CRIMES						NON-INDEX CRIMES	PENDING	CASE FILED IN COURT / SETTLED / SOLVED
	MONTHS	BREAK-INS	THEFT	ROBBERY	STOLEN ELECTRIC WIRES	MURDER / HOMICIDE	BUKAS KOTSE		
JAN	1	5	1	0	0	1	1	2	7
FEB	0	6	0	0	0	2	0	2	6
MAR	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
APR	1	3	0	0	0	0	2	1	5
MAY	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	2
JUN	0	2	0	0	0	1	1	1	3
JUL	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	3
TOTAL	3	21	2	0	0	4	5	7	28
								CASE SOLVED	28
								PENDING	7
								CRIME VOLUME	35
								CRIME SOLUTION EFFICIENCY	80%



Source: Investigation Division-Law Enforcement Department, SBMA



(CONTINUATION WHERE IS SBFCC IN THE RIFT BETWEEN SBMA TOP OFFICIALS-PAGE 1)

He said RA 7227 should take precedence in the appointment of the SBMA administrator which meant the Eisma and not Dino should give the direction to SBMA.

Diño agreed to hold in abeyance an administrative order upon the recommendation of Malabon Rep. Federico Sandoval II.

The administrative order according to Sandoval "purports to create a task force, reporting to him (Diño) that is intended to inspect, monitor, and review business operations and the financial safety and security of the SBMA."

Sandoval said these are acts that are beyond the SBMA Chairman's powers and duties under the law.

Oriental Mindoro Rep. Reynaldo Umali said the problem stemmed from the unwarranted issuance of EO 340.

Umali, Chairman of the Committee on Justice, said locators at the Freeport could not be left hanging while the two heads are fighting. (Source: Politiko Central Luzon)

The said congressional hearing was never conclusive though. The committee members would not even present a report because there was no adjournment nor conclusion. They just suspended the proceedings and asked the Chairman to just hold off his administrative order, the same administrative order which re started the problem between him and Admin Eisma.

On the same day of the hearing, SBFCC submitted a position paper to the Office of House Speaker, Pantaleon Alvarez. The same letter was then sent to the Office of the President in Malacañang several days after.

SBFCC OUTREACH PROGRAM AT SAMPALOC COVE, ZAMBALES



There were about a hundred kids and their parents from Sampaloc Cove, Zambales who were beneficiaries of the Outreach Program organized by the SBFCC last April 17, 2017.

Sampaloc Cove is not well known compared to its neighboring coves such as Silanguin, Anawangin, Talisayin, and Nagsasa due to its remoteness. From Subic Bay, Sampaloc Cove can also be reached by boat in almost the same travel time from Pundaquit. Often, it really depends on the speed of the banca. The cove hasn't been developed; isolation and remoteness are evident as of today.

The small community at Sampaloc Cove is alien to those things that modernity can offer, which we ordinarily enjoy like electricity, modern-day houses and clean comfort rooms. They don't have access on wifi and one can hardly find any network signal for his cellphone.

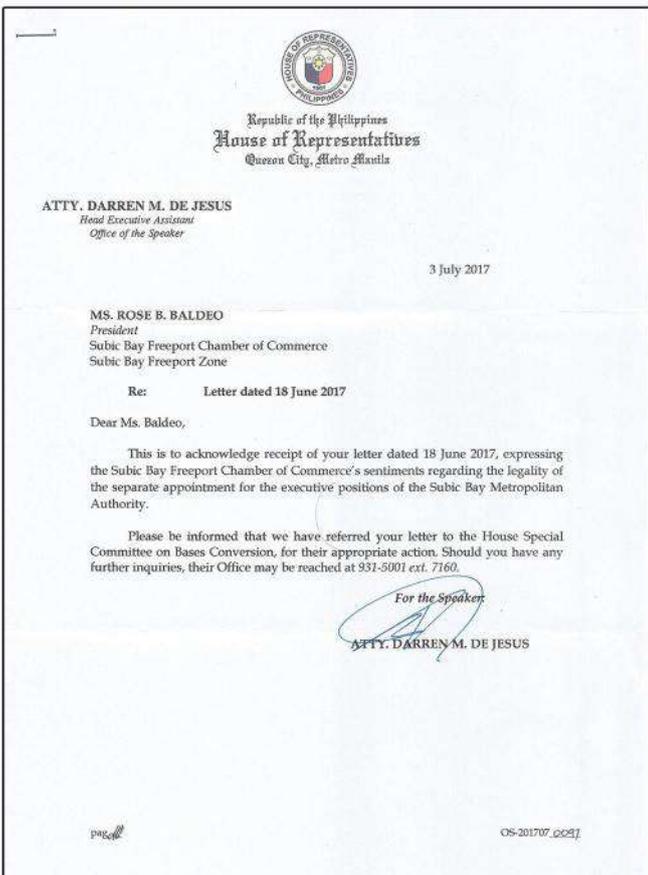
Families basically go on fishing for their daily intake, and water supply directly flows from the streams in the nearby area to their water containers. There are two existing faucets for the whole community where one can wait till eternity for his container to fill since water flow is so little.

SBFCC provided some basic supplies to the families like foods, school supplies and clothes. There were also foods that were cooked in the place for the families to partake. We also talked to the Barangay Captain to assess the priority needs of the community so we can determine how we can actually help them in future outreach programs.

CALL TO SBFZ LOCATORS TO HIRE SBMA VOLUNTEERS

During the SBFCC Board meeting last May 30, 2017, the board have unanimously decided to support the call of the SBMA to help the former volunteers who are in danger of losing their jobs because of the impending termination of all contractual employees in SBMA.

Through the SBFCC's Committee on Labor, Workforce and Safety, we are planning to come up with a project coined as "Giving Back to the Heroes of Subic Bay" that would allow former volunteers (or their children) to be given priority-hiring in companies within the SBFZ. We hope that through this project, the hiring of volunteers and their children will become an institutionalized program in the Freeport Zone. However, we humbly ask for the support of the SBMA Labor Center and/or SBMA HR Department to provide the SBFCC a detailed listing of SBMA Volunteers, including their personal circumstances and other job-related qualifications which will serve as the basis for our members in hiring our dear SBMA Volunteers.



TECHNICAL & VOCATIONAL EDUCATION & TRAINING (TVET)

SENATE PASSED "TULONG TRABAH0" ACT

The Philippine Senate passed on third and final reading this month the Tulong Trabaho Act of 2017 which aims to provide free technical-vocational training and uplift the skills of the Filipinos.

TESDA Director General, Secretary Guiling "Gene" Mamondiong said that Senate Bill No. 1431 or popularly known as the Tulong Trabaho Act of 2017 would also pave the way to increase the funds for the agency in technical and vocational training.

Senate Bill No. 1431 was sponsored by Senator Joel Villanueva who was the TESDA chief from 2010-2015 before he was finally elected into the Senate after he won in the 2016 national polls.

"We believe that increasing the allocation of TESDA scholarship programs will lead to greater output and productivity of workers. The measure also seeks to address the job skills mismatch of our workers," Villanueva said then.

Last year, TESDA received P2.2 billion budget for Training for Work Scholarship Program (TWSP). Despite the increase in the number of students who took up tech-voc courses nationwide, the budget was never increased.

House Bill No. 1431 states that the Tulong Trabaho Fund will subsidize some of the training programs for qualified trainees, including financial help like transportation allowance and laboratory fees.

SBFCC HELD ONE STOP SHOP (OSS) 2017 AT HARBOR POINT AYALA MALLS, SBFZ



For the third time now since 2015 when SBFCC initiated the conduct of One Stop Shop Business Processing, SBFCC members and non-members enjoy this one day event where all concerned SBMA Departments are housed in one place (Harbor Point Activity Center) where they can be readily accessed by locators to renew their business licenses.

Only those locators with business permits expiring on July to September 2017 were accommodated since the One Stop Shop (OSS) was only from 9am to 4pm of that day. SBMA Departments present during the OSS were the following: All Business Group Departments, Accounting, Treasury, Fire, PHSD, Legal, Building Permit, LAMD, Ecology, Labor, Accreditation, TAFS, MVRO, and Tourism.

Apart from processing of business permits, there were about 77 SBFZ employees who were able to renew their IDs. Other government agencies present during the OSS were Bureau of Immigration (BI) and Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR). PLDT Subic Tel supported the event by providing Wi-Fi connection and a business center for the locators.

REGIONAL CHAMBER PRESIDENTS' MEETING



The Regional Chamber Presidents Meeting was held on July 18, 2017 at Show Suite, One West Building, Global Gateway Park, and Clark Freeport Zone. It was attended by the different Chambers of Commerce from the different provinces in Region 3 like the Metro Olongapo Chamber of Commerce, Tarlac Chamber of Commerce, Zambales Chamber of Commerce, Bulacan Chamber of Commerce, Nueva Ecija Chamber of Commerce, Metro Angeles Chamber of Commerce, and the Subic Bay Freeport Chamber of Commerce represented by Executive Dir. Donna May Tamayo and SBFCC Dir. Steve Eggers.

The meeting focused on the various areas of concerns about Tourism, MSMEs or the Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises. Also tackled are various challenges on the agricultural sector as well as business development within the region.

The Regional Chamber Presidents Meeting is a monthly meeting of all Chamber Presidents and Directors within the region to tackle the interests and well-being of the business sector in general, as well as address their concerns and partner with them to meet the challenges encountered in doing business.

TESDA TO GIVE FREE ASSESMENT TO WORKERS

TESDA will give free assessment and certification to industry workers to inform them about the importance of Competency Assessment and Certification System (CACW) of the agency. TESDA Director General, Secretary Guiling Mamondiong also encouraged all industry workers who still have not undergone assessment and have no certification from the agency to avail of the CACW program. Mamondiong said that the CACW program does not include graduating students or trainees of the TESDA registered programs. He also said that those who availed of the assessment in the past but failed to get certification are not qualified for free assessment.

The Regional Offices of TESDA will shoulder the expenses of those who will be included in the CACW program. They will also promote the qualifications needed in the Training for Work Scholarship Program (TWSP). The CACW program aims to provide 51,900 free assessment slots until December 2017. Among those included in the program are workers/industry practitioners/professional/ career shifters; prospective industry assessors; PWDs; public utility vehicle (PUV) drivers; trainers of private and public technical-vocational institutions (TVIs) and overseas Filipino workers (OFWs).

continuation on page 14

Continuation TESDA from page 13

Relative to this, SBFCC Dir Jay Mendoza met with TESDA Provincial Secretary Virgie Bondoc and he was informed that Secretary Gene Mamondiong will be visiting Zambales and Olongapo on the 27th until the 28th. A meeting is now being arranged between SBFCC and TESDA to pave the way for the following concerns which SBFCC Pres. Emeritus Danny Piano who also heads the SBFCC Technical-Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Committee would like to raise:

1. Because of the fast growing need of companies for skilled labor inside the Subic Bay Freeport and surrounding areas, the Technical-Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Committee of the Subic Bay Freeport Chamber of Commerce (SBFCC) requests that the number of scholarship vouchers being distributed to the Province of Zambales, particularly to Olongapo City and the Subic Bay Freeport should be increased. It would be best that the Subic Bay Freeport be given special scholarship allotments, possibly Training for Work Scholarships (TWSP) or Special Training for Employment Program (STEP) scholarships.

2. A number of TESDA Training Regulations are not fully compatible with CHED academic programs. It makes difficult for a TVET Graduate to further pursue a college degree since TVET Competencies need to have CHED subject equivalents. In the absence of such equivalents, the result is that despite earning multiple competencies, a TVET Graduate still needs to take first-year college subjects to bridge academic subjects. These inconsistencies are out-of-synch with the ladderized interface between TVET and higher education as envisioned in Executive Order 358.

4. There is currently a sharp decline in the number of TVET Trainers due to the following reasons:

- Since SHS started, DepEd needed many more SHS teachers. As a result, there is an ongoing migration of TVET-qualified trainers to DepEd because of the higher pay.
- Difficulty in meeting the required industry experience, e.g., a newly licensed engineer cannot even teach basic vocational work because of the lack of industry experience.
- Delays in the release of Training Methodology (TM) scholarships.
- Difficulty in the conduct of TM Assessments due to very small number of appointed TM Assessors for Region 3. The recent appointment of a private sector regional panel expert from the Subic Freeport's Comteq College as TM Assessor will help, but that is still only one from the private sector for the whole of Olongapo-Zambales.

The SBFCC, being the voice of the business community inside the Subic Bay Freeport, puts us squarely in a position where we can effectively gather information on what the needs of SBF companies are. It is not uncommon where our members have a number of technical job openings yet cannot hire people with the right skills. TESDA, on the other hand, being mandated to provide quality technical-educational and skills development can supply that need through its programs. With more than 100,000 workers inside the SBF and still growing, there is without a doubt a need to train new and existing workers; the problem is the lack of TESDA scholarship offerings in this area and knowing exactly what those courses are and when they are needed.

The SBFCC can help determine the needs of companies while TESDA can provide the trainings necessary. But for this to work, the time-frame between determining the need and providing the trainings should be drastically lessened. This is possible, as previously mentioned, through special scholarship allotments to the SBF. This can probably be combined or perhaps made to evolve to TESDA's Dual Training System modality later. This would be putting TESDA trainings to where the action is, so to speak.

A lot of coordination will be needed to make the above-suggested arrangement prosper—a solution would be through a Memorandum of Agreement between the SBFCC and TESDA.

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IMPORTANCE OF ENVIRONMENT IN TOURISM STRESSED IN SUBIC FORUM



Dr. Mina Gabor, president of the Subic-based International School of Sustainable Tourism, sounds a native gong to formally open the 2017 Ecotourism Festival at the Subic Bay Exhibition and Convention Center.

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT — Senator Cynthia Villar and Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) Wilma Eisma both expounded on the importance of protecting the environment to sustain the growth of the tourism industry in the country, as the three-day 2017 Subic Ecotourism Festival opened here on Monday at the Subic Bay Exhibition and Convention Center.

The two women leaders told festival participants that tourism cannot be sustained without caring for the environment, and that sustainable development needs commitment from the people.

“At the heart of sustainable tourism is protection of the environment,” Villar, a long-time advocate of environmental protection, declared during the event.

“Tourism without environmental preservation and protection is not sustainable,” she added, citing her project, the Las Piñas-Zapote River Rehabilitation Program, which gave birth to several livelihood projects where water lilies, plastics and other used materials that clogged rivers were turned into handicrafts pieces and even furniture.

“Today, we are focusing our efforts in establishing the Las Piñas-Parañaque Critical Habitat, and the Las Piñas Wetland Park as eco-tourism destinations,” Villar also said.

Meanwhile, SBMA Administrator Eisma recalled how the more than 8,000 volunteers of the Subic Bay Freeport cleaned up and safeguarded the former Subic Naval Base after the US Navy left in 1992.

Calling them heroes of local ecotourism, Eisma said the volunteers showed their “malasakit” (caring) and “kusang-loob” (initiative) without being paid for their work, thus helping in transforming Subic into what it is today.

“Malasakit and kusang-loob are the benchmark of ecotourism. You put your foot forward without expecting any in return, because at the end of the day, this is your home,” she added.

Eisma also stressed the importance of being responsible tourists, and of being aware of the negative impacts that tourists may bring to the places they visit.

“We can enjoy the place, but please be responsible. Ecotourism is all about sustainability and responsibility is sustainability,” she added.

The 2017 Subic Ecotourism Festival was organized by Subic International School for Sustainable Tourism headed by Dr. Mina Gabor, in celebration of the International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development.

With the theme “Ecotourism Driving Sustainability: ASEAN and Beyond”, the event brought together sought-after speakers from the Global Ecotourism Network (GEN), including chairperson Glen Jampol, as well as experts from Asian Ecotourism Network (AEN) and other top tourism icons and specialists from all over the globe.

The speakers who come from USA, Costa Rica, Jordan, Thailand, Australia Japan and other Asian nations were scheduled to speak on such topics as general tourism, architecture, and ecotourism site development.

Participants are also set to visit ecotourism sites in Subic and the Green Grand Canyon in Pampanga on the last day of the festival. *By SBMA-Media Production Department*



SBMA Administrator Wilma T. Eisma welcomes participants to the 2017 Ecotourism Festival at the Subic Bay Exhibition and Convention Center.

SUBIC, CLARK AFFIRM PARTNERSHIP IN REGIONAL GROWTH, NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT



CIAC President Alex Caguiran (right) and SBMA Chief Marketing Executive Ronnie Yambao give “thumbs up” signs to show unity between the Subic and Clark free ports in undertaking their joint development roles for the Central Luzon region.

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT — The Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) and the Clark International Airport Corporation (CIAC) reaffirmed on Wednesday their partnership as global gateways to boost development in the Central Luzon region and to propel national economic growth.

Speaking during the CIAC 2017 Roadshow here, SBMA Administrator Wilma Eisma and CIAC President and CEO Alex Caguiran expressed their continuing commitment to work hand-in-hand towards regional growth and outlined their vision for a more effective partnership.

“President Duterte has always emphasized that he wants to connect Clark and Subic free ports in order to turn Central Luzon into a major logistics hub,” Eisma said in a message read by SBMA Chief Marketing Executive Ronnie Yambao. “And this is how it really should be.”

“As world-class gateways, Clark International Airport and the Port of Subic can and should serve as the twin turbo-engine of growth for Central Luzon, a super duo – if I may call it – that can help alleviate urban blights like vehicular traffic and port congestion in Metro Manila,” Eisma added.

Eisma also pointed out that by coordinating the operations of Clark airport and Subic seaport, CIAC and the SBMA can serve the needs of micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMs), as well as large manufacturing industries in the region; spur growth in tourism and the MSMEs and big industries through the efficient movement of people, goods, and services to and from Central Luzon and other parts of the country; and create more employment and livelihood opportunities in the region.

“So as you can probably surmise, our only option is to work effectively, efficiently, and harmoniously together if we are to support and fulfill the President’s agenda for Subic and Clark,” Eisma added.

For his part, Caguiran emphasized the need for a common development platform between Clark and Subic, as well as the nearby communities, so that they may fulfill their roles in the national development agenda.

“We are promoting not only Clark, but also Subic Bay and the provinces of Bataan and Zambales,” Caguiran said, adding that this is in line with the vision of President Duterte to decentralize development and disperse growth to different regions in the country.

Caguiran, who served as member of the Philippine panel that negotiated air service agreement with other countries in the world, said that as early as six years ago, he was already batting to maximize the use of the airports in Clark and Subic because the Ninoy Aquino International Airport in Manila was already overloaded.

“I said that we should open other airports,” Caguiran recalled saying. “We should make (the Clark and Subic) airports night-rated, give them entitlement, develop their terminal, and develop their runway.”

“And I believe that the Subic Bay International Airport (SBIA) has entitlement to develop and fully utilize its airport because I always make sure that what will be put in the proposal will include not only Clark but Subic and other airports outside NAIA,” he added.

The Subic Bay Freeport and the Clark Freeport are now considered the prime catalysts of economic progress in Central Luzon and the biggest generators of livelihood opportunities for residents of communities devastated by the Mt. Pinatubo eruption in 1991 and the subsequent withdrawal of US military forces the following year from the former Subic Naval Base and Clark Airforce Base.

Because of this, Eisma likewise stressed that Subic and Clark “are not competitors, but members of the same national team.”

“As separate entities, we are no doubt expected to accomplish a lot, but together we are also expected to do much, much more,” the SBMA official said.

TRADERS SHARE BEST PRACTICES WITH ENTREPRENEURS IN SUBIC FREEPORT FORUM



(DTI) Assistant Secretary Blesila A. Lantayona (3rd from right) urges entrepreneurs to aim for sustainable business by learning about best practices from successful businessmen.

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT — “Don’t prove me wrong, prove me right! Can you deliver?” This was the challenge sounded by Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) Assistant Secretary Blesila Lantayona at the opening here on Wednesday of the agency’s “Kapatid, Mentor Me Program” session some 200 local entrepreneurs.

The program, held at the Subic Bay Travelers Hotel, tapped speakers from among some of the highly successful entrepreneurs in the country today and aimed to help micro and medium enterprises grow and attain sustainability.

According to Lantayona, from 70 to 80 percent of small to medium businesses have a short life span due to insufficient knowledge among owners on how to manage the business. The mentoring project, she added, seeks to help small and medium enterprises in Zambales and Olongapo City penetrate markets more stably and consistently.

During the forum, Paul Anthony de Guzman from the Philippine Center for Entrepreneurs and CEO of Go Negosyo, reminded participants that all entrepreneurs, big and small, should live by the vision of “Kapatid, angat lahat!”

He stressed that all entrepreneurs must lift and encourage one another, allowing small companies to benefit from and with their bigger counterparts.

Tokyo Tempura CEO Jorge Noel Y. Wieneke III, meanwhile, shared the origins of his entrepreneurial mindset and impressed upon the audience the need for an attitude of gratitude, all the while introducing his listeners to the “power” within them.

Wieneke said his business-centric mentality that originated from his infatuation with a childhood toy, which caused him to inadvertently find ways to make money through odd jobs. The same determination, risk-taking, passion and outgoingness carried into his adulthood and birthed his business, Potato Corner, which he had built with close friends and family.

The businessman would later on receive an award for sharing his insights on how to attain success.

Meanwhile, Business Mentors Inc. president Wilfredo Victor Arcilla contended that while overseas Filipino workers are recognized for their contribution to the Philippine economy through remittances, entrepreneurs play a bigger role in nation-building.

“The money OFWs collectively generated, if these were divided among the individuals OFWs, would still be a paltry amount. The OFWs weren’t going to change the Philippines; only enterprises will,” he concluded.

Asec Lantayona also urged the entrepreneurs of small and medium businesses and enterprises not to underestimate themselves, pointing out that their businesses “provide a whopping 62 percent of the jobs in the Philippines.”

She also cited the success of their mentees from Tacloban who had collectively generated P14 million after only five months of using a business model formulated under the DTI’s Mentor Me Program.

Lantayona said the DTI plans to extend the program into more easily accessible territory with web seminars, or webinars.

The mentoring session carried well into the afternoon with Arcilla lecturing on current marketing trends, followed by inspirational success stories from local entrepreneurs led by James Lee, chairman of the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Council of Olongapo. *By SBMA-Media Production Department*

SBMA POST P614.28-M EARNINGS IN JUST 4 MONTHS



Cargo ships unload at the New Container Terminal and the Sattler Pier in the Subic Bay Freeport

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT — The Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) continues to generate positive revenue figures this year, recording a total of P615.28 million in earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization (EBITDA) in just the first four months of this year.

SBMA Administrator Wilma T. Eisma said the Subic agency's various strategic units contributed a total of more than P1 billion in operating revenues in the said period for a 9.5 percent increase over the P919.6 million posted last year.

Minus the operating expenses of P313.5 million and bad debts account of P78.2 million, Eisma said the SBMA managed a P56.9 million increase over the 2016 EBITDA of P558.3 million for a 10.2 percent increase in earnings.

"We're very much optimistic that while 2016 was considered a banner year in SBMA finances, we just might be able to top that at the rate we're going this year," Eisma said.

"The SBMA is actually riding an upward trend that began in the past few years, and I believe we can sustain that and that further growth will continue," she added.

According to a comparative report from the SBMA Finance Group, agency earnings increased further this year compared to 2016 records. The agency's net income, for example, surged by 148 percent from P18.5 million in the first quarter of 2016 to P46.76 million in the first quarter of 2017.

The biggest revenue contributor among the SBMA business units as of end-April this year was the Port Authority Group, which delivered P476.4 million in the first four months. The Business and Investment Group followed with total revenue of P426 million; Public Services Group, with P67.5 million; Regulatory Group, with P18.38 million; the Chairman and Administrator's Group, with P9.25 million; and Support Services Group, with P7.19 million.

The biggest increases as of end-April this year over figures in the same period last year came from the Business and Investment Group, which posted close to P55 million in variance, and the Port Authority Group, which provided an increase of P17.85 million.

Meanwhile, the SBMA Tourism Department reported a 28 percent increase in revenues from visitor and tourist arrivals, as well as hotel occupancy, from January to April this year.

A report from SBMA Tourism showed a total of 894,603 visitors and 161,046 tourists arriving in Subic in the first four months. These figures represented respective increases of 70,648 and 30,284 over 2016 arrivals.

The 2017 arrival figures included some 289,600 visitors who arrived in the Subic Freeport for the Holy Week.

According to the report, the increase in the number of visitors and tourists this year generated actual revenues amounting to P2.74 million, which is 28% higher than the P2.1 million revenue record last year.

Among the events that generated much tourism traffic in the first four months this year are the arrival of the luxury cruise ship MS Bremen, and the three-day Summer Siren beach music festival that was held here in May. *By SBMA-Media Production Department*

SUBIC VOLUNTEERS PLANT 5,000 TREES ON ARBOR DAY

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT — About a thousand volunteers from the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA), business locators and stakeholder groups in this free port planted some 5,000 trees on Friday during the Arbor Day celebration here.

SBMA administrator Wilma Eisma said the volunteers braved the long walk to the planting site in the foothills of Barangay Bangal in Dinalupihan, Bataan, which is still part of the Subic Bay Freeport Zone.

"My heart swells with pride to see people here very early in the morning—sweaty, hands soiled and shoes muddy while planting, and not complaining at all," Eisma said. "It's such a beautiful sight! No food and shirts for free, yet they're still here."

The tree-planting project was attended by representatives from Subic-registered companies like Jollibee, Ocean Adventure, Petron, Koryo, SubicWater, Jobin, IDESS, RP Energy, Crown Peak, Toyota, Koushin, Mega Subic, Aura College, as well as the Subic Bay Freeport Chamber of Commerce.

The government sector was also represented in the activity by the PNP-Special Action Forces, Olongapo City Council, Barangay Gordon Heights, Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (DENR-CENRO) Olongapo City, and the Philippine Coast Guard Auxiliary.

Community groups like the Philippine Association of Certified Public Accountants were also present.

According to Patrick Escusa, chief of the Social Development Division of the SBMA Ecology Center that spearheaded the activity, the volunteers planted around 5,000 seedlings in a graded 2.2-hectare land in the middle of a forested area in Bangal.

The seedlings, mostly narra and some fruit-bearing species, were from DENR-CENRO, the SBMA nursery, and some stakeholders.

This was the third tree-planting activity held as part of the Arbor Day celebration here, which is part of the agency's environmental preservation and conservation advocacy program under Republic Act 10716, the law that revived the observance of Arbor Day in 2012 and authorized government units to observe the annual event with tree-planting activities.

Arbor Day is observed every June 25, but the SBMA held it two days earlier to enjoin more employees and other stakeholders to join the activity.

"I'm very happy that this is happening today—that we are helping in taking care of the environment," Eisma also said on Friday, as the volunteers completed the project by mid-day.

"I hope this happens every day with similar gestures—by picking up the plastic that we throw, by making sure we conserve on water. Any little thing we could do to save the environment will help," Eisma added. *By SBMA-Media Production*

SUBIC BAY TO HOST PHIL'S FIRST FULL DISTANCE IRONMAN EVENT

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT — The Century Tuna IRONMAN Philippines triathlon, the country's first-ever full distance IRONMAN race, will take place here in June next year in celebration of the decade-long presence in the Philippines of the popular endurance race.

The full distance Ironman race will be a special edition for one year only to mark the tenth anniversary since the first IRONMAN 70.3 event took place in Camarines Sur in 2009, said Wilfred Steven Uytensu, founder of Sunrise Events, which owns and organizes IRONMAN races in the country.

Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) administrator and chief executive officer Wilma T. Eisma said the full-distance Ironman will be another milestone in the Subic Freeport's "storied timeline of hosting popular sports events."

"We take pride in the fact that the Subic Bay Freeport has become a favorite destination for races and sports events that require a combination of superb natural environment, challenging but beautiful courses and modern facilities for both the players and their families," Eisma said.

She added that the race events held in Subic have become a steady source of tourism revenue in the past few years, pointing out that the Freeport has been the site of Ironman 70.3 events in the past three years.

Organizers said that next year's Century Tuna IRONMAN Philippines will aim to build upon the successes of the Century Tuna IRONMAN 70.3 Subic Bay and provide athletes with a challenging, yet beautiful course to tackle.

For the full distance race, athletes will begin their IRONMAN journey with a one-loop, 3.8-km swim in the calm, pristine waters of Triboa Bay, starting and finishing at ACEA Resort, which will also play host to the first of the split transition areas.

Once onto their bikes, athletes will head out of Subic and onto the Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway (SCTEX) for a fast and flat two-loop, 180-km ride, which will bring riders back into transition 2 at the Remy Field here.

Then the 42.2-km, two-loop marathon run will be the last leg, taking the participants along some of the best coastal views that Subic has to offer.

"We see the event as the perfect platform to promote a healthy lifestyle—the core value of our brand—and we hope that the Century Tuna IRONMAN Philippines will inspire many Filipinos to pursue their own fitness journey," said Greg Banzon, vice president and general manager of Century Pacific Food, Inc., the title sponsor for the Subic IRONMAN events.

The 2018 Century Tuna IRONMAN Philippines will offer a US\$25,000 professional prize purse (P-2000) and 30 age-group qualifying slots for the 2018 IRONMAN World Championship in Kailua-Kona, Hawaii.

Uytengsu noted that when the first IRONMAN 70.3 race was held in Camarines Sur in 2009, there were only 583 participants in the event. "But since then the sport has grown by leaps and bounds, with multiple races all over the Philippines," he added.

"We at Sunrise Events are happy to be at the forefront of this triathlon renaissance and are proud to organize the 2018 Century Tuna IRONMAN Philippines in order to showcase one more time the best the country can offer," Uytengsu also said. *By SBMA-Media Production Department*

CHAIRMAN FILES GRAFT AGAINST 13 SBMA EXECUTIVES

Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) Chairman Martin Diño, last July 19, 2017 charged 13 officials with malversation, grave misconduct, serious dishonesty and grave abuse of authority in the office of Ombudsman over "un accounted assets" and lapses in disbursement transactions.

The cases were filed against Deputy Administrator for Administration Ruel John Kabigting; Deputy Administrator for Finance Antonietta Sangui; Ecology Center manager and regulatory group head Amethya de la Llana-Koval financial planning and budget department manager Editha Marzal; internal audit service department manager Joel Ela.

The Chairman also filed complaints against finance department head Myrna Caseja; Procurement and property management department chief Rani Cruz procurement Division chief Josminia Torrenueva; financial planning and budget department manager Carlito Faustino; engineering department manager Gary Fernandez; Building permit and safety department manager Joselito Bakuteza; and accounting department chief Emilia Canonizado.

One of the complaints stemmed from an audit observation memorandum issued on Feb. 13 by the Commission on Audit (COA), which said that Canonizado "committed deficiencies/errors" in reporting the balance of the agency's construction in progress amounting to more than 3 billion.

Another complaint involved the balances of several asset and liability accounts totaling P26.8 billion and P27.3 million, respectively, which have been dormant for more than five years. "casting doubt on their validity and reliability," according to the memorandum.

A third complaint referred to a COA memorandum dated April 11 as the basis for charging Sanqui and Koval due to their alleged failure to fully implement and monitor compliance of environmental standards within the free port.

Diño said all those charged were accountable for their "blunder, whether willful or by gross negligence, or through the fault of their junior officers and employees."

*with reports from the Philstar and Philippine Daily Inquirer

SUBIC TRADERS ASK DUTERTE TO STEP INTO SBMA ROW

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT – Officials of the Subic Bay Freeport Chamber of Commerce (SBFCC) have appealed to Malacañang to step into the ongoing rift between top officials of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) and install a professional manager to restore order and stability to the agency.

Continuation on Page 21

Continuation from Page 20 Subic Traders

SBFCC President, Rose Baldeo, said the leadership issue between SBMA Chair Martin Diño and SBMA Administrator Wilma Eisma over Diño's alleged encroachment into Eisma's management functions has caused confusion among business locators as well as prospective investors in Subic.

What we need is stability and harmonious business atmosphere in Subic," Baldeo said in a statement sent to Inquirer on Friday.

She said SBMA "should be headed by a professional manager who is knowledgeable in business, who can positively engage investors and can inspire trust and confidence among both locator-companies and agency employees."

Capable manager'

SBFCC vice president, Derrick Manuel, shared Baldeo's assessment that a "capable manager" was needed to head the SBMA.

"The agency has been run by leaders with expertise and passion for SBMA since its inception," said Manuel, who was among the volunteers who started the so-called Subic miracle in 1992.

He also said he supported Eisma, a fellow volunteer. "I have always had the greatest respect for the intelligence and work ethic of Administrator Eisma. Wherever she has gone...she has always pursued excellence," he said. "Thousands of volunteers and the other workers who subsequently gained employment in Subic worked so hard to build this free port, so we have to insist that Subic should get the best," he said.

The ongoing rift between Eisma and Diño was triggered by the latter's administrative order forming a task force to inspect and monitor the business and financial operations of SBMA.

Eisma said the order "interfered and encroached on the power, function and duty of the administrator and chief executive officer."

Board action

The board of directors also believed that the task force would infringe on the board's oversight functions. While Eisma got the backing of SBFCC, Diño had been supported by the ruling PDP-Laban in the SBMA leadership conflict.

In a statement on June 23, Senate President Aquilino Pimentel III, PDP-Laban president, said Diño "enjoys the full trust and confidence of the President (Duterte)."

The House of Representatives had launched an inquiry into the SBMA leadership row, after lawmakers convened an ad hoc and special committee on bases conversion to hear Diño and Eisma explain their rift during the legislators' visit here on June 7.

In a letter to Speaker Pantaleon Alvarez on June 8, Baldeo presented the SBFCC's position that "it would be for the benefit of the SBMA and its locators to have only one person for the position of SBMA chair and administrator instead of separating the two."

Baldeo said the confusion caused by the separation of positions "runs contrary to the mandate of SBMA to create a harmonious environment for the businesses to generate employment opportunities in and around the zone and to attract and promote productive foreign investments." *By Allan Macatuno, Philippine Daily Inquirer*

ICTSI SUBIC IMPROVES TRADE EFFICIENCY IN NORTH AND CENTRAL LUZON

International Container Terminal Services, Inc.'s (ICTSI) new Container Freight Station (CFS) at the Subic Bay Freeport is at the forefront of ensuring the faster movement of goods in the Northern and Central Luzon markets. The two regions continue to grow, driven by industrial centers like Subic, Clark, Bataan, and Tarlac.

Launched last year, the CFS is one of Subic Bay International Corp.'s (SBITC) value-added services. The CFS, envisioned to serve as a regional distribution center (RDC), makes the more efficient movement of goods possible because of its quicker clearing periods compared to other RDCs. It saves time, cuts costs, thereby helping improve margins for companies doing business with other countries.



"The CFS is a multi-user logistics facility especially beneficial for the growing e-commerce and m-commerce markets such as businesses looking into Amazon style same day delivery services into major urban areas in Region 3 and certain parts of the Greater Manila Area. Big box retailers can likewise use the CFS as the consolidated centers for their Northern and Central Luzon stores," says Roberto Locsin, head of SBITC.

The CFS has allotted areas for import and export, danger double its capacity and is capable of stuffing and stripping eight containers simultaneously. It is the first and only facility of its kind in Central Luzon.

"Luzon businesses can benefit from SBITC's direct services to all of the major intra-Asia ports which provides access to the rest of the world. Many of the same vessels that call Manila now call Subic and in many cases, transit times have improved to the same destinations," he adds.

Recently, Evergreen Marine Corp., Taiwan's largest shipping company, launched its Korea-Taiwan-Philippines (KTP) service in Subic and included ICTSI's New Container Terminals (NCT) 1 and 2 to its port rotation. The service plies the ports of Incheon and Kwang Yang, South Korea; Kaoshiung, Taiwan; and Batangas and Subic Bay, Philippines.

During the inaugural call of KTP service's 1,440-TEU boxship Cape Fulmar, the two quay cranes of SBITC handled close to 400 twenty foot equivalent units (TEU). Each averaged 40 and 33 moves per hour.

Currently, SBITC has on-boarded three of the top cargo consolidators in the Philippines for the Subic CFS: ECU Worldwide, International Consolidators Phils., Inc. (ICPI), and Keihin Everett Forwarding Co., Inc. SBITC welcomed these consolidators and other interested parties to develop the LCL (less container load) business in the region.

"With the Subic Bay Freeport serving as the gateway of Northern and Central Luzon to global markets, ICTSI has positioned itself as the company that would facilitate the efficient movement of products in the area. Its establishment of the CFS adds value to its operations and, in turn, improve its clients' productivity," says Mr. Locsin.

He adds: "The Filipino businessman now has access to a premier port that connects their business to the rest of the world ideally located in one of the best deep water harbors in Asia with global carriers, efficient and reliable trucking services, and trustworthy brokers and forwarders who now call Subic home."

As part of efforts in marketing Subic, SBITC gathered over 100 members of the Philippine International Sea Freight Forwarders Association (PISFA), and government officials from the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) and Bureau of Customs (BOC) in a business forum at the SMX Convention Center in Pasay City.

The forum focused on Subic as a strategic port in the country that links Northern and Central Luzon products and businesses to global markets. The forum also reintroduced Subic to PISFA who are excited to learn about the improved accreditation process at SBMA.

"We continue to encourage shipping lines to utilize the container terminals in Subic. This meeting with PISFA puts us in the right direction to achieve our goal. Along with our commitment with SBMA and the BOC, ICTSI and SBITC are one with all stakeholders in making sure that businesses will continue to grow in Subic," says Mr. Locsin. *By Manila Bulletin*

ROYAL CARIBBEAN CRUISES EYEING SUBIC AS PORT OF CALL

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT – One of the biggest cruise ship companies in the world is interested in making regular visits to this premier Freeport for the growing Asian market.

Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd. (RCCL) has sent Vice President for New Business Development John Tercek to meet with Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) administrator Atty. Wilma Eisma to assess the premier Freeport's viability as a cruise ship destination.

"Subic Freeport is now ready to meet the demands of the cruise tourism market, as we have been successful in this regard when cruise ships like Clipper Odyssey, Spirit of Adventure, and the Hanseatic came to Subic," Eisma said.

"But now we could be looking at a regular schedule by Royal Caribbean, so we're really excited with this prospect," she added.

Tercek, who was accompanied by officials of the Department of Tourism on his July 1-2 visit in Subic, said the RCCL is catering to 2 million Chinese cruise passengers per year and is now developing new market destinations.

"If ready, we are considering the Subic Freeport as one of the nearest stops from Southern China to help address the cruise market demand," he added.



Tercek made an ocular inspection of Alava Wharf here and received a briefing from Eisma on the heritage and history of Subic as a former naval base and one of the most successful cases of military base conversion in the world.

He was also updated on tourism business potentials in Subic, as well as neighboring communities in Central Luzon.

Tercek told Eisma during the visit that Subic has all the elements necessary for a cruise ship destination.

"I can see the potential of Subic Freeport as a conventional cruise ship destination," he said. "But as we build bigger ships, you have to step up to address the demand." *By Jonas Reyes, Manila Bulletin*

SBMA CITES INVESTMENT , INFRA GRAINS

Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) Chairman Martin Dino yesterday said SBMA bagged its single biggest foreign direct investment (FDI) in recent years, scored a record six new revenue increases this year, and doubled its fuel-storage capacity in 24 years after the Americans left the former naval base.

Dino said the major gains achieved by SBMA in the first quarter of 2017 debunked reports of inefficiency and alleged leadership row hurled by his detractors who opposed his uncompromising crusade against corruption, smuggling and abuses of some Freeport officials.

He said his exposes on a spate of smuggling activities at the Freeport might have enraged those behind the racket, including officials with pending court cases.

Dino said it is under his term as chairman and head of agency that the SBMA approved the proposal of the Singapore-based Dynamic Konstruct International Eco Builders Corp. (DKIEBC) to build a US\$797-million industrial estate at the Redondo Peninsula where the Hanjin shipbuilding facility is located.

Unlike in previous contracts, Dynamic Konstruct already paid P472 million in advance rentals.

Dino said the SBMA seaport earned P309 million in revenues in the first quarter of the year, a nine-percent increase from P287.7 million in 2016, and hiked both its containerized and bulk cargoes to 33,031 TEUs and 1,826,519 metric tons, respectively or a 24.84 percent increase.

He also cited a 7.59 percent increase in revenue from P676.3 million in Q1 2016 to P727.6 million in Q1 2017, a 148-percent increase in net income from P18.8 million in Q1 2016 to R46.7 million in Q1 2017, a 24.84 percent increase in cash and investments, and more than P40 billion in new investments.

Dino said the Philippine Costal Storage and Pipeline Corp. (PCSPC), operator of petroleum-storage facilities in SBMA and the Subic-Clark fuel pipeline, opened only recently its three 180,000-barrel storage tanks and two tank-truck loading racks that increased its fuel storage capacity to 5.2 million barrels. *By Jonas Reyes, Manila Bulletin*

TAIWANESE INVESTORS EXPECTED TO FURTHER SPUR C.LUZON ECONOMY

Subic Bay Freeport – Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) Administrator Atty. Wilma Eisma is bullish on the further economic growth of Central Luzon after inviting investors in Taiwan, which launched its external economic strategy New Southbound Policy, to do business in the country

During the recent Philippine Investment Promotion Plan (PIPP) Investment Roadshow in Taiwan, Eisma invited Taiwanese business groups to look into the possibility of investing in Central Luzon Manufacturing and Logistics Zone (CMLZ).

"We know that you are already very familiar with the (special economic) zones in the Philippines, but please allow me to re-introduce to you a prime business location—a manufacturing and logistics hub north of Manila, Philippines," Eisma said.

She said the CMLZ, which is composed of the Clark Freeport, Subic Bay Freeport, and the Freeport Area of Bataan, covers a land area of more than 90,000 hectares, has several advantages that make it a haven for businesses, and is managed by devoted agencies that have come together as one unit.

"Together we have worked closely to maximize our potential as one manufacturing and logistics zone. By joining forces, we now offer you many advantages," Eisma added.

The first advantage of locating in CMLZ, she told the businessmen, is its strategic location.



Eisma said the CMLZ “is a critical entry point to the ASEAN region populated by some 650 million people, as well as a natural gateway to East Asian economies such as China, Japan, Hong Kong, Singapore, Taiwan and South Korea.”

Moreover, the CMLZ is at the crossroads of international shipping and air lanes, and accessible to the ASEAN region within three to four hours by plane via the Clark International Airport and four days by ship to and from the Port of Subic.

Eisma likewise pointed out that developed infrastructure support at CMLZ “enhances our strategic location and internal supply chain systems,” pointing out that eight airlines operating domestic and international flights fly to and from Clark, which also hosts major international cargo operators, such as Federal Express and UPS. *By Jonas Reyes, Manila Bulletin*





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EVENTSGALLERY





EVENTS GALLERY



SumVac Coordination Meeting @ Grand Harbor

March 29



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April 21



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April 29-30

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Rank	Item	Quantity
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2	Plastic Bottles	850,512
3	Other Plastic Bags	288,048
4	Plastic Paper Plates	250,102
5	Styrofoam (Polystyrene)	247,787
6	Plastic Water Bottles	212,884
7	Styrofoam Containers (Polystyrene)	120,000
8	Plastic Paper Plates	100,000
9	Plastic Paper Plates	100,000
10	Plastic Paper Plates	100,000

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Rep: Mr. Jarl Moe

Business: Import/Export

Address: 38 Golden future st. Lot 65A
Subic Bay Gateway Park SBFZ

Phone: 047- 250-3593

Email: sales@jmkcoatings.com

Company: SINOSUN SUBIC BAY HOLDINGS
CORPORATION

Rep: Mr. Kuan san Tan (Trevor Tan)

Business: Holdings

Address: Unit 111 Labitan st. SIH complex
cor. Canal and sta. Rita road CBD area,
SBFZ

Phone: 251-3599

Email: sinosunsubic@gmail.com

Company: CONVERGE ICT SOLUTIONS, INC.

Rep: Mr. Dennis Uy

Business: Internet Service Provider

Address: 2nd Floor Best western hotel
Bldg. Dewey Ave. SBFZ

Phone: 0906-342-0881

Email: bjrossario@convergeict.com

Company: LINNEMAN TECHNOLOGIES, INC.

Rep: Ms. Mary Grace Obedicen

Business: Design and Software
Development

Address: Room 208 portion of 14 A canal
road Sta. Rita Road SBFZ

Phone: 047-251-3498

Email: lti@linneman.essig.com

Company: TERRACE HOTEL (HANAKYUNG
CORP)

Rep: Ms. Lizadel D. Rivera

Business: Hotel Bar and Restaurants

Address: Blk 1 lot 2, 3 and 3A Moonbay
marina, waterfront road SBFZ

Phone: 047-250-2730

Email: terracehotel.subicbay@yahoo.com

Company: BUENA CASA HOSTERIA , INC.

Rep: Mr. John Jeremy David

Business: Hotel and Restaurants

Address: Lot 8,9 & 10 Blk 78 betty lane st.
CBD area, SBFZ

Phone: 047-250-0663

Email: buenacasasubic@yahoo.com

RENEWED MEMBERS

Company: GRAINPRO PHILIPPINES, INC.

Rep: Mr. Tom De Bruin

Business: Developing and marketing post-harvest technologies

Address: Lot 46 efficiency ave. SBGP, SBFZ

Phone: 047- 252-7884

Email: salesasia@grainpro.com

Company: DELTA DRIVE PHIL., INC.

Rep: Mr. Ronaldo M. Roberto

Business: Manufacturing

Address: Bldg. 674 canal road SBFZ

Phone: 047-252-3831

Email: philippines@deltadrive.com

Company: TEXAS JOE'S HOUSE OF RIBS

Rep: Mr. Gilbert Lee

Business: Restaurant/ Bar-American style smoke house

Address: Bldg. 12 McKinley st. waterfront road SBFZ

Phone: 047-252-3189

Email: info@texasjoes.com

Company: SUBIC BOARDWALK, INC. (HOTEL BAHIA)

Rep: Mr. Paolo Francesco S. Barretto

Business: Hotel and Restaurant

Address: Bldg. 664 waterfront road SBFZ

Phone: 047-252-2894

Email: hotelbahiasubicbay@yahoo.com

Company: CRESC INCORPORATED

Rep: Mr. Kazumoto Murata

Business: Ink Refill Manufacturer

Address: 24 innovative st. Subic Bay gateway park phase 1, SBFZ

Phone: 047-252-8060

Email: roasario@cresc-inc.com

Company: PRINTING IMAGES COAST TO COAST

Rep: Mr. Norbert Grimm

Business: Ink Manufacturer for inkjet printers

Address: Bldg. 868 Dewey ave. SBFZ

Phone: 047-252-6012

Email: mail@printingimagesctc.com

RENEWED MEMBERS

Company: MAG ENGINEERING SERVICES
Rep: Engr. Marvin Go
Business: Construction
Address: Unit 84 West Gate Suites
Sampson road CBD area SBFZ
Phone: 047-252-9874
Email: engineeringmag28@yahoo.com

Company: DM THERMAL SOLUTIONS
ELECTRO MECHANICAL SERVICES AND
SUPPLY
Rep: Mr. Daniel Mallari
Business: Electro-Trading, Importation &
Services of (HVAC&R) Heating, Ventilation,
Air conditioning & Refrigeration System
Address: Portion of bldg.. 640 Sampson
Road ,Central Business District, SBFZ
Phone: 047-250-3322
Email: dmthermalsolutions@gmail.com

Company: ECU WORLDWIDE (PHILIPPINES)
INC.
Rep: Mr. Kaushal Shetty
Business: Logistics/ freight forwarding
/consolidator
Address: 14 A Sta. Rita Road Corner Canal
Road CBD area SBFZ
Phone: 047- 250-3342
Email: info@ecumnl.eculine.net

Company: Insafety Incorporated
Rep: Ms. Regina B. Quiambao
Business: Occupational Safety and Health;
Training & Consultancy
Address: 128 Sun Valley Drive, Km 15,
West SVC Road South Superhighway
Paranaque
Phone: 632- 822-1134
Email: training@insafety.com

Company: JOLLIBEE SUBIC BAY (EDDIE AND
JULIE "G" FOODS CORP.)
Rep: Mr. George G. Deguzman
Business: fast Food Restaurant
Address: Magsaysay cor Rizal Highway,
SBFZ
Email: jbsbma@yahoo.com.ph

Company: WATERCRAFT VENTURE
CORPORATION
Rep: Mr. Mahalaliel Jared C. Leong
Business: Yacht Services
Address: Bldg. 1031 Rizal Highway Subic
Bay Freeport zone
Phone: 047- 252-1740
Email: watercraftventure@gmail.com

RENEWED MEMBERS

Company: STEELFAB WATER SOLUTIONS ASIA, INC.

Rep: Mr. Steve Eggers

Business: water tanks and sheet metal works

Address: 28-31 lot 49-51 faith st. Unit b Subic Bay Gateway Park SBFZ

Phone: 047-250-2393

Email: steve@steelfab.com.ph

Company: FBM SYSTEM AND ELECTRONICS, INC.

Rep: Mr. Amarillo Do Amaral Duarte Costa

Business: Manufacturing Industry

Address: No. 28-31 lot 49-51 unit D faith St. cor innovative st. Subic Bay Gateway Park, SBFZ

Phone: 047- 250-0828

Email: pepe.costa@fbmelectronics.com.ph

Company: HITACHI TERMINALS MECHATRONICS PHILS. CORP.

Rep: Mr. Satoshi Fujimoto

Business: Manufacturing of Card reader & module components of ATM

Address: Blk E-1 Subic Technopark Boton Area SBFZ

Phone: 047-252-1490

Email: wc@hitachi-htmp.com.ph



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