

PortCalls

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PH domestic trade in goods slumps 33.9% in 1Q

PHILIPPINE domestic trade declined by double digits in both volume and value in the first quarter of 2020, data from the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) showed.

The volume of domestic trade in the first quarter of the year dropped 33.9% to 4.38 million tons from 6.62 million tons in the same quarter of 2019.

Food and live animals topped in terms of quantity with 1.60 million tons or 36.6% of the total. It was followed by commodities and transactions not classified elsewhere in the Philippine Standard Commodity Classification and manufactured goods with 0.69 million tons (15.7%) and 0.61 million tons (14.1%), respectively.

By region, MIMAROPA (Mindoro, Marinduque, Romblon, Palawan) registered the highest quantity of traded commodities at 0.90 million tons or 20.6% share to total in the first quarter of 2020. Bicol Region ranked second with 0.64 million tons (14.6%) and Central Visayas placed third with 0.57 million tons (12.9%).

Value

In terms of value, domestic trade totaled P125.31 billion, a contraction of 42.7% from the P218.53 billion value recorded in the same period in 2019.

Machinery and transport equipment still led in terms of value with P44.94 billion or 35.9% share to total. It was followed by food and live animals and manufactured goods with P29.62 billion (23.6%) and P14.32 billion (11.4%), respectively.

Western Visayas ranked first with P27.92 billion or 22.3% share, followed by Eastern Visayas with P24.42 billion (19.5%) and Central Visayas with P16.48 billion (13.2%).

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Northern Mindanao, meanwhile, posted the highest inflow value of all the regions with P36.38 billion. It was followed by Central Visayas and Western Visayas with P23.43 billion (18.7%) and P18.65 billion (14.9%), respectively.

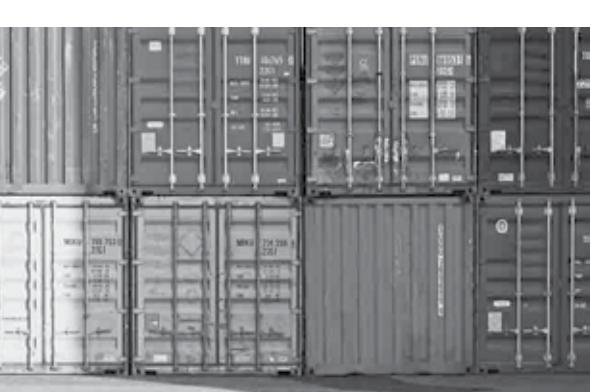
CARAGA, on the other hand, had the lowest inflow value of P0.41 billion.

The top three regions with favorable trade balances in the first quarter of 2020 were Eastern Visayas with P11.70 billion; Western Visayas, P9.27 billion; and Bicol Region, P7.17 billion. Trade balance is

the difference between the inflow value and outflow value, that is, outflow minus inflow.

Northern Mindanao, on the other hand, had the highest unfavorable trade balance value at P24.84 billion.

Almost all or 99.9% of the commodities remain traded through water (coastwise) while the remaining were through air.



HSSSI narrows loss by 94% in first six months

MARINE services provider Harbor Star Shipping Services, Inc. (HSSSI) reported a loss of P5.315 million in the first half of 2020, 94% less than the P89.254 million loss it incurred in the same period last year.

The reduction was a result of improved revenues from other core businesses, revenue from generation of solar power, and income from logistics supply, HSSSI said in a regulatory disclosure.

The group posted a service income of P726.19 million in the first six months of 2020, 7% more than the P678.29 million recorded in the same period in 2019.

Revenues from harbor assistance,

which accounted for the highest share in revenues, decreased 2.5% to P470.398 million from P482.627 million. Lighterage services revenue increased 34.3% to P70.039 million from P52.137 million.

Towing services improved 5% to P9.138 million from P8.702 million. While there was no revenue from salvage during the period, HSSSI earned P1.03 million for underwater services.

Feeder services revenue sank 88.8% to P2.595 million from P23.207 million. Other marine services earned P33.409 million, up 5% from P31.807 million.

HSSSI also earned P139.28 million

revenue from its solar power business.

Subsidiaries Peak Flag Sdn Bhd and Astroenergy Development Gensan, Inc. contributed P57.59 million and P139.27 million to the group's revenue, respectively.

Cost of services for the first six months of 2020 increased 0.19% to P531.75 million from P530.75 million in the same period last year.

As of December 2019, HSSSI, includ-

ing its domestic subsidiaries and affiliates, has services in about 89 ports all over the country, of which 16 are base or hub ports. It has provided services to about 9,300 ships as of year-end.

Since the end of 2019, HSSSI has managed a fleet of 45 domestically and internationally classed tugboats, seven barges, one landing craft tank, two cargo ships, one tanker, and one dredger. The company has a total of 57 vessels.

BOC-Batangas launches customer care center

THE Bureau Customs (BOC) Port of Batangas has inaugurated its Customer Care Center (CCC), the third one-stop shop for customs services of the agency.

The inauguration was part of the Batangas collection district's 63rd founding anniversary celebration on August 17.

The Batangas CCC is BOC's third one-stop shop facility to be opened to provide document management and other customs services.

The first was inaugurated at the Port of Manila last February and the second at the Port of Legazpi last July. BOC Port of Subic

on July 1 broke ground for its own CCC.

The establishment of CCCs is part of BOC's goal to implement a zero-contact policy, eradicate corruption, and enhance trade facilitation. It is also meant to comply with Republic Act No. 11032, or the Ease of Doing Business and Efficient Government Service Delivery Act.

PortCalls

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COVID-19 slashes ALLHC income 55% in first six months

AYALALAND Logistics Holdings Corp. (ALLHC) reported a net income of P155 million for the first half of 2020, down 55% from P346 million in the same period of the previous year.

Revenues dropped 28% to P1.6 billion in the first six months of the year from P2.2 billion in the same period in 2019 largely due to the impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, ALLHC said in a statement.

The decline was attributed to the slowdown in the company's retail leasing and retail electricity supply segments.

"Despite our limited operations during the community quarantine, we managed to register a positive bottomline for the first half of the year," group president and chief executive officer Maria Rowena Tomeldan said.

"We are adapting to the changes brought about by the global pandemic, with our primary focus being ALLHC's long-term financial sustainability and the safety and well-being of all our employees, locators, merchants, and customers," she added.

Revenues from industrial lot sales amounted to P351 million, 33% lower compared to last year's P522 million. Commercial revenues likewise decreased 31% to P262 million from P381 million.

Warehousing leasing revenues, on the other hand, increased 38% to P193 million from P140 million.

PAL loss in 1H worsens by 632%

PHILIPPINE Airlines (PAL) reported a total comprehensive loss of P22.02 billion for the first half of 2020, a whopping 632% more than P3.01 billion posted in the same period last year.

The group's performance during the first semester was severely affected by worldwide travel restrictions due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, the airline explained in a regulatory disclosure.

Consolidated revenues amounted to P36.82 billion, 54.7% less than the P81.20 billion in the same period in 2019. This was mainly due to the 58.9% drop in passenger revenues following flight cancellations starting March.

All of PAL's international and domestic flights to and from its hubs in Manila, Cebu, and Clark were suspended through May 31, 2020 due to quarantine restrictions.

Revenues from passenger travel dropped to P29.26 billion in the first six months of 2020 from P71.135 billion in the same period last year.

Cargo revenues decreased 6.3% to P4.217 billion from P4.499 billion. Cargo flights remained operational during the quarantine periods in compliance with government regulations.

Revenues from ancillary services went down 40% to P3.338 billion from P5.542 billion.

Hapag-Lloyd has good first half in 2020 but COVID-19 uncertainties remain

CONTAINER carrier Hapag-Lloyd concluded the first half of 2020 with earnings before interest and taxes (EBIT) of US\$563 million, surpassing the prior-year figure of \$440 million.

Group profit improved to \$314 million. At the same time, earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization (EBITDA) rose to \$1.29 billion.

Revenues in the first half of 2020 stood at about US\$7.0 billion, less than 1% below the prior-year level, the decline attributed mainly to the decrease in transport volumes of about 4% to roughly 5.8 million TEUs.

Costs and expenses stood at P1.327 billion, a 27% decrease from P1.825 billion in the previous year.

ALLHC's industrial park locators and lessees of logistics facilities are operating with skeleton workforce at this time, the company noted. Tutuban Center and South Park Center are open to the public with mall merchants operating with limited capacity while adhering to health and safety guidelines.

"Buyers' interest for our industrial lot offerings remains, and we see a growing demand for our warehouse facilities," Tomeldan said.

ALLHC also expects its ongoing expansion projects to add 30,000 square meters of gross leasable area to its warehouse portfolio by the end of 2020.

Capital expenditures reached P339.3 million, mainly going to land development, warehouse construction and facility upgrade. For 2020, the company's adjusted budgeted total capital expenditures is P2.16 billion.

ALLHC, a subsidiary of Ayala Land, Inc., has principal business interests in holding companies, commercial leasing, industrial lot sales and development, and retail electricity supply. Its subsidiaries include Laguna Technopark, Inc., Unity Realty Development Corp, Orion Land, Inc., Tutuban Properties, Inc., LCI Commercial Ventures, Inc., and FLT Prime Insurance Corp.

Consolidated operating expenses decreased to P52.16 billion, 32.8% lower than last year's total of P77.62 billion for the same period, mainly due to the significant reduction in flights operated.

PAL expects a US\$1 billion (around P49 billion) loss from February until the lifting of quarantine restrictions, company president and chief operating officer Gilbert Santa Maria said earlier.

PAL resumed limited operations on June 1, 2020, with restrictions remaining in place. But with Metro Manila and other nearby provinces reverting to modified enhanced community quarantine from August 4 until 18 due to rising coronavirus infections, all regular scheduled domestic flights to and from Manila during the period had to be cancelled again.

Domestic flights between Clark, Cebu, Davao and cities other than Manila were not affected and remain operational.

International flights to and from Manila also continue to operate, subject to further guidelines from the authorities on quarantine capacity and related arrangements.

In April 2020, PAL's aircraft delivery schedule was revised to align with the forecast recovery of travel demand. This led to the postponement of aircraft deliveries that were set for 2020 and 2021, with a new delivery schedule of 2022-2025.

While transport volumes were still slightly higher in the first quarter, the second quarter saw a decline of roughly 11% compared to the prior-year period as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The average freight rate in the first half of 2020 slightly improved to \$1,104 per TEU.

"After the year got off to a decent start, transport volumes significantly declined in the second quarter as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. We benefitted from the sudden drop in bunker prices, adjusted capacity to lower demand and took additional cost-cutting measures as part of our Performance Safeguarding Program,"

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said Rolf Habben Jansen, chief executive officer of Hapag-Lloyd AG.

"On the whole, we have a good first half year behind us despite the coronavirus crisis," he said.

Transport expenses were around 4% below the comparable figure for the previous year. Average bunker price was \$448 per tonne, which is about 4% higher than it was in the prior-year period owing to the introduction of the IMO 2020 fuel regulation. This was offset by positive effects from a volume-related decline in transport expenses and active cost management.

In addition, the sharply declining bunker prices in the second quarter had a positive impact on Hapag-Lloyd's earnings.

Looking ahead, the results forecast remains unchanged. For the current financial year, Hapag-Lloyd expects an EBITDA of EUR1.7 billion (\$2.01 billion) to EUR2.2 billion and an EBIT of EUR0.5 to EUR1.0 billion.

Given the COVID-19 pandemic and the economic repercussions it has had in many parts of the world, the forecast will remain subject to considerable uncertainty, the carrier said.

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Cardiff Trade	20003N	2-Sep	3-Sep	11-Sep	12-Sep

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MBX - Manila - Nansha - Shekou - Hongkong					
FEEDER VESSEL	VOY.	ETD MNL (NTH)	ETD MNL (STH)	ETA XIA	ETA SHT
Sinar Sangir	20019N	22-Aug	24-Aug	30-Aug	1-Sep
Jan	20003N	29-Aug	31-Aug	6-Sep	8-Sep

LCT CARGO: NORTH / FRI 0900H * SOUTH / SAT 0900H

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FEEDER VESSEL	VOY.	ETD MNL (NTH)	ETD MNL (STH)	ETA LYG	ETA TAO
ALS Juventus	OKREYN	27-Aug	29-Aug	3-Sep	5-Sep
Navios Delight	OKRF2N	3-Sep	5-Sep	10-Sep	12-Sep

LCT CARGO: NORTH / MON 0400H • SOUTH / TUE 1700H

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Zante	080E	30-Aug	3-Sep	5-Sep	7-Sep

LCT: CARGO / SAT 1200H • ED & ARRASRE / FRI 1700H • FSI / FRI 1300H

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FEEDER VESSEL	VOY.	ETD MNL (STH)	ETD MNL (NTH)	ETA SHA WQ4	ETA NBO
Seaspan Guayaquil	035W	25-Aug	26-Aug	-	-
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CH1 - Manila North - Shanghai					
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CMA CGM Eiffel	0QA6KN		22-Aug	29-Aug	
Navios Nerine	0QA6MN		29-Aug	5-Sep	

LCT: CARGO: FRI 0700H

IA3 - Manila North - Taichung					
FEEDER VESSEL	VOY.	ETD MNL (NTH)	ETA TAICHUNG	ETA XIAMEN	ETA YANTIAN
Navios Tempo	033N	25-Aug	30-Aug	31-Aug	2-Sep
Navios Lapis	034N	1-Sep	6-Sep	7-Sep	9-Sep

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SEASPAR NEW YORK	004N	AUG 28	AUG 30	004S	SEP 4	SEP 4	SEP 6	SEP 11	SEP 13
ALS FAUNA	083N	SEP 4	SEP 6	083S	SEP 11	SEP 11	SEP 13	SEP 18	SEP 20
SEASPAR NEW YORK	005N	SEP 11	SEP 13	005S	SEP 18	SEP 18	SEP 20	SEP 25	SEP 27

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BARRY TRADER	0041E	AUG 20	AUG 21	0041W	AUG 26	AUG 27	AUG 28	AUG 30	SEP 3	SEP 4
CAPE ARAXOS	0CS1DR1N	AUG 27	AUG 28	0CS1DR1N	SEP 2	SEP 3	SEP 4	SEP 6	SEP 10	SEP 11
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CALAX Laguna interchanges now open

THE Laguna Boulevard Interchange and the Laguna Technopark Interchange—part of the Laguna segment of the Cavite-Laguna Expressway (CALAX)—are now open to motorists, announced the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH).

Public Works Secretary Mark Villar in a statement said the community quarantine had affected the overall timeline of the project but “we have carefully navigated through this situation and we are ready to open these interchanges to the public at 12:01AM on August 18.”

About 10,000 cars per day are currently served by the Laguna segment

of CALAX, and the two newly opened interchanges “are added catalysts for the much needed economic activity at all levels,” said Villar.

“It will allow the flow of output of goods and services that people utilize thereby spurring growth in the community and the region,” he continued.

The two newly opened interchanges provide motorists access to and from the Laguna Technopark and offer an alternative route to and from Nuvali via Laguna Boulevard and South Boulevard, thus decongesting Santa Rosa-Tagaytay Road and other local service roads in the area, according to concessionaire MPCALA Holdings, Inc.

The two interchanges are “on full electronic mode” and use radio frequency identification (RFID) technology to prevent the spread of the coronavirus disease during transactions at toll booths, MPCALA president and general manager Bobby Bontia said.

By November, the whole of CALAX will be using RFID technology.

The 45-kilometer (km) CALAX is designed as a tolled four-lane expressway connecting Manila-Cavite Expressway (CaviteX) in Kawit, Cavite to South Luzon Expressway (SLEX) at their Mampasán Interchange in Biñan.

CALAX will have interchanges in eight locations, namely, Kawit, Imus Open Canal, Governor’s Drive, Aguinaldo Highway, Silang, Sta. Rosa-Tagaytay, Laguna Blvd., and Technopark, with a toll barrier before SLEX.

The project has two segments: Laguna, a 10.7-km stretch between Mampasán Entry and Santa Rosa-Tagaytay Interchange; and Cavite that spans 35 km from Kawit, Cavite and traverses the Imus Open Canal, Governor’s Drive, Dasmariñas, Aguinaldo Highway and Silang.

The Laguna portion became fully operational last February, while the Cavite portion is eyed for completion by 2022.

Continued from page 5

global trade.”

At the test run, DOTr officials assured that the procedures were safe and that the crew-change protocols being implemented were the best practices in the maritime sector.

“The system we are implementing has incorporated lessons we have learned from earlier activities,” Transportation assistant secretary for communications and commuter affairs Narciso Vingson said.

“During the mass repatriation of seafarers from cruise ships, there were steps that have already been corrected to ensure that health will not be compromised—for the workers and the seafarers. To be able to check this, we have involved all parties, national and local government and agen-

cies,” Vingson added.

On her part, Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) chairman and administrator Wilma T. Eisma said Subic is willing to host the crew-change hub project, but stressed that safety measures should be in place in all phases of the project.

She also insisted that local government units (LGUs) be consulted in all aspects because workers who would man crew-change facilities would be coming from communities near Subic.

The SBMA board of directors has so far approved only the first phase of the project, which involves the point-to-point embarkation of seafarers, said Eisma. The second phase, which involves the quarantining of arriving crewmen in hotels

within the Subic Bay Freeport Zone, is still for local consensus.

DOTr undersecretary Raul Del Rosario pointed out that during the dry run, the one-stop-shop system did not allow direct exposure between seafarers and the processors from the Bureau of Quarantine, and that no airport staff was directly involved in the crew-change operation.

Regarding phase two, the safety requirements of LGUs “can be met easily because they have already been included in the protocols,” added Del Rosario, who is also Office for Transportation Security administrator.

“All hotel workers will be housed. They will be quarantined for 14 days before being allowed to go home,” he said.

And to ensure crew-change operations are transparent, Del Rosario said that LGUs will be represented in the one-stop-shop monitoring team, and that the team will be given updates and reports on a regular basis.

Activation of Subic as a crew-change hub is a national government undertaking led by the DOTr and supported by the Department of Health, Department of Labor and Employment, Department of Interior and Local Government, SBMA, and other government agencies.

The project seeks to implement the so-called Philippine Green Lane to facilitate the speedy and safe travel of seafarers, including their safe and swift crew change during the pandemic.

PEZA headquarters temporarily moves to Pasay City

THE Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA) is moving its head office back to Pasay City from Taguig City on August 24.

The new temporary office is located on the 10th floor of Doubledragon Center West Building, DD Meridian Park, Macapagal

Avenue, Pasay City, according to PEZA director general Charito Plaza in Memorandum Circular No. 2020-0044.

PEZA was supposed to move to Doubledragon Center last March from its office in Taguig.

PEZA’s official contact numbers will not change despite the move. However, during the transition period from August 18 to August 23, PEZA may only be reached through email and official mobile numbers. The official contact numbers are available on PEZA’s website.

Plaza early this year said PEZA had secured P800 million from the Land Bank of the Philippines to construct its own 13-story building in the Bay Area of Pasay City.

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