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PPA seeks contractor for P980M container registry, monitoring system

- The Philippine Ports Authority is seeking bidders for its container registry and monitoring system for inbound containers
 - The winning bidder will also provide local importers access to container insurance services
 - PPA will spend P980 million for the Trusted Operator Program-Container Registry and Monitoring System (TOP-CRMS) and Empty Container Storage Shared Service Facility
 - TOP-CRMS consists of the container identification and control program; container tracking program; and container availability and insurance program
 - The TOP-CRMS will be implemented initially at the Manila South Harbor and Manila International Container Terminal
 - The pre-bid conference will be held on March 8
 - The deadline for submission of bids, as well as the opening of bids, will be on March 22
- THE Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) is seeking bidders for its container registry and monitoring system for inbound foreign

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SBMA bullish over Subic seaborne trade with new shipping services

- *The 2,475-TEU MSC Sotiria III made its maiden call on Subic on Feb. 23 as part of Mediterranean Shipping Company's expanded Seahorse Service loop in Southeast Asia*
- *Wan Hai Lines recently resumed its Subic Express Service with calls on Shekou, Subic, Batangas, Manila, Cebu, Taichung, Kaohsiung, and Hong Kong*
- *SBMA expects to generate import revenues of \$1.77 billion and export revenues of \$1.42 billion in 2022*

SUBIC Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) expects stronger regional seaborne trade this year following the Feb 23 maiden call in Subic of Mediterranean Shipping Company's (MSC) MSC Sotiria III, as well as resumption of a service by Taiwanese shipping line Wan Hai.

SBMA Chairman and Administrator Wilma T. Eisma said the weekly Subic port calls of MSC, the world's largest shipping company in terms of capacity, will further boost trade in Subic. SBMA last year generated revenues of \$1.58 billion for imports and \$1.03 billion for exports.

"My dream for the Subic Bay Freeport is for it to be among the top 50 biggest ports like Shanghai or Singapore. The fact that MSC, which is now the world's largest container shipping line, chose Subic to be in its trade route not only gives Subic access to the world and vice versa, but also brings us one more step closer to

that goal," Eisma said in a statement.

This year, she said SBMA aims to generate an import value of \$1.77 billion and export value of \$1.42 billion, as the global economic effects of the Covid-19 pandemic begin easing.

The MSC Sotiria III call is part of the expanded Seahorse Service loop in Southeast Asia. The 2,475-TEU container ship arrived at Subic's New Container Terminal after calling the Port of Manila on Feb. 21.

The weekly service uses three container ships with port rotating Tanjung Pelepas, Singapore, Manila, Subic, Kaohsiung, Vung Tau then back to Tanjung Pelepas. Singapore and Tanjung Pelepas in Malaysia both serve as major transshipment hubs for MSC and connect the rest of the Asian trade loop to Western and European trade services.

MSC general manager Pankaj Patki, SBMA Senior Deputy Administrator for Opera-

tions Ronnie Yambao, Subic Bay International Terminal Corp. CEO Justin C.

Tolentino, and representatives of various

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PH manufacturing rebounds in Feb on solid output, new orders

- *The Philippine manufacturing sector returned to growth in February*
- *This is its highest gain in more than three years on solid expansion in output, new orders and purchasing*
- *The Philippine Purchasing Managers' Index rose from 50.0 in January to 52.8 in February, climbing above the no-change threshold that separates expansion from contraction*
- *Growth centered on expansions in both output and new orders with the rate of increase in the former the quickest in more than three years*
- *Supply chain issues persisted although the extent to which lead times lengthened was the weakest for a year*
- *Reports of port congestion and transportation bottlenecks also persisted, but companies men-*

tioned improvements in material availability

THE Philippine manufacturing sector returned to growth in February, registering its largest gain in more than three years on solid expansion in output, new orders and purchasing.

The Philippine Purchasing Managers' Index rose from 50.0 in January to 52.8 in February, climbing above the no-change threshold between expansion and contraction.

The latest result signaled a resumption of growth in the Philippines' manufacturing sector and indicated the strongest improvement in the health of the sector since December 2018, according to the latest survey by London-based IHS Markit.

Growth focused on expansions in both output and new orders, with the rate of increase in the former the fastest in more than three years.

Firms surveyed said the relaxation of some pandemic restrictions and greater

availability of materials prompted the increase in production.

New orders, meanwhile, rose sharply with survey panel comments overwhelmingly citing improvements in domestic demand. Exports also rose in February, ending four successive months of contraction.

"There were, however, areas of concern surrounding prices and employment," IHS Markit economist Shreeya Patel.

"Inflationary pressures were historically elevated, which forced firms to push through hikes in selling charges. At the same time, voluntary resignations continued, which has been seen since the pandemic hit the Philippines' economy two years ago," Patel explained.

"Fortunately, production does not seem to have been impacted by staff shortages and firms are keeping backlogs at bay."

Spare capacity allowed manufacturers to add to post-production inventories in February, driving up stocks sharply and at the fastest rate in five years. Anecdotal evidence suggested survey panelists an-

icipated greater demand in the coming months and boosted their stock levels.

Supply chain issues, meanwhile, persisted in February, although the extent to which lead times lengthened was the weakest for a year. Reports of port congestion and transportation bottlenecks persisted, but companies also mentioned improvements in material availability.

As for prices, higher energy, raw material, fuel and transportation costs drove up expenses in the second month of the year. The rate of input price inflation was robust and much stronger than the long-run survey series average.

Subsequently, manufacturers raised their selling charges at the joint-quickest rate in the current 22-month sequence of inflation.

Looking ahead, hopes for a return to normality, greater demand and a favorable presidential election outcome underpinned positive sentiment in February, but the degree of optimism was below the long-run series average.

Upgraded NAIA taxiway set to accommodate large aircraft

- *The Department of Transportation has inaugurated the newly-repaired and upgraded Taxiway Charlie Phase 2 of Ninoy Aquino International Airport*
- *The upgraded taxiway will enable NAIA to accommodate large aircraft types and ensure smoother and faster maneuvering of aircraft en route to the parking bay or the main runway*
- *NAIA now joins the ranks of its neighbor airports with concrete taxiway pavements*

Phase 2 of Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) on February 25.

The project includes civil and electrical works for the repair and upgrade of taxiways Hotel-1 and Charlie-1 to Charlie-5, as well as the existing asphalt pavements.

DOTr said the improvements further ensure safety and efficiency of flight movements at the country's main gateway.

The upgraded taxiway will enable NAIA to accommodate large aircraft types, such as the Boeing 777, and ensure smoother and faster maneuvering of aircraft en route to the parking bay or the main runway.

With the developments, DOTr said NAIA now joins the ranks of its neighbor airports with concrete taxiway pavements.

Concrete pavements have longer lifespan, serviceable under all-weather conditions, resistant to degradation caused by fuel spillage, oil dripping, and jet blast; and allows wider load distribution with fewer base and sub-base requirements.

Last year, DOTr and Manila International Airport Authority also inaugurated upgrades in other airside facilities in NAIA, including the repair and cement overlay of Runway 13/31 and the construction of the additional holding area Hotel 5 or H5 at Runway 13.

These upgrades boosted the airport's maximum allowable commercial flight movement capacity from 40 flight

movements per hour to 50, or a total of 240 commercial flight movements per day.

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Speaker:
Ms Mariel Kliatchko
PortCalls Event Director

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International Trade and Customs Consultant
Chamber of Customs Brokers Inc., Vice President
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THE Department of Transportation (DOTr) has inaugurated the newly-repaired and upgraded Taxiway Charlie

Customs exceeds Feb collection target by 17.4%

- The Bureau of Customs collected P59.036 billion in February, surpassing its P50.302-billion monthly target by 17.4%
- 14 of the 17 collection districts exceeded their targets for February
- For the first two months of the year, BOC took in P117.524 billion, representing 17.3% of the P679-billion annual target for 2022

THE Bureau of Customs (BOC) has collected P59.036 billion in February 2022, surpassing its P50.302-billion monthly target by 17.4%.

Based on preliminary report from BOC's Financial Service, 14 of the 17 collection districts exceeded their targets for February: San Fernando, Port of Manila, Manila International Container Terminal, Batangas, Iloilo, Cebu, Tacloban, Cagayan

de Oro, Zamboanga, Davao, Subic, Clark, Aparri, and Limay.

For the first two months of the year, BOC has collected P117.524 billion, representing 17.3% of the P679-billion 2022 target.

BOC in a statement attributed its positive performance to improved valuation and intensified collection efforts of all collection districts.

The 2022 target is 10.1% higher than the P616.749-billion target for 2021 and 5.1% up from the P645.765 billion actual collection last year.

Customs Commissioner Rey Leonardo Guerrero earlier said BOC has also set a higher internal target of P699 billion as they are also required to collect additional revenues for value-added tax refund.

Despite the pandemic, the customs bureau had been surpassing its annual revenue collection targets since 2020.

Oil firms top PH importers of 2021

- The Bureau of Customs recognized Petron, Pilipinas Shell and Unioil as the country's top importers for 2021
- The leading taxpayers based on compliance to BOC's post-clearance audit program were Universal Robina Corp and Japan Tobacco International
- Toyota Motor Philippines was the first importer to be accredited under the Authorized Economic Operator Program

THE Bureau of Customs (BOC) recognized the country's top importers and taxpayers for 2021 at its 120th anniversary celebration on February 23.

Oil firms Petron Corp., Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. and Unioil Petroleum Philippines, Inc. were named last year's

top importers based on their payment of duties and taxes.

The leading taxpayers when it came to compliance with BOC's post-clearance audit program were food and beverage company Universal Robina Corp. and Japan Tobacco International, Inc.

Toyota Motor Philippines Corp. also received recognition as the first importer to be accredited as an Authorized Economic Operator under the BOC AEO Program launched in 2019.

The Super Green Lane Association and Chamber of Customs Brokers, Inc. were cited as industry partners for supporting the BOC's core mandates.

Moreover, the customs bureau acknowledged its 17 collection districts for helping bring up 2021 revenues to P645.765 billion, 4.7% more than the P616.749-billion target.

Abu named 29th Philippine Coast Guard Commandant

- Coast Guard Vice Admiral Artemio Abu is the 29th Commandant of the Philippine Coast Guard
- His appointment takes effect Feb 28

PRESIDENT Rodrigo Duterte appointed Coast Guard Vice Admiral Artemio Abu as the 29th Commandant of the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) effective today (February 28).

Before his appointment, Abu served as the Commander of the Maritime Safety Services Command and the Task Force Commander of the PCG Task Force Kaligtasan sa Karagatan, a unit that ensures the effective enforcement of laws relevant to the promotion of safety of life and property at sea within the Philippine maritime jurisdiction.

As a Coast Guard officer, Abu was assigned as Commander of the PCG District Southern Visayas, PCG District



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The agency's Enforcement and Security Service and Customs Intelligence and Investigation Service were awarded for their technical proficiency and participation in the strategic execution of border protection-related operations, which led to multiple successful apprehensions of prohibited commodities and other contraband in 2021.

BOC likewise recognized its partner law enforcement agencies the National Bureau of Investigation, Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency, Philippine Coast Guard, and the Philippine National Police for successful customs intelligence and enforcement operations.

BOC in 2021 conducted 1,006 seizures

of smuggled shipments with an estimated value of P28.426 billion compared to the previous year's P10.629 billion.

Meanwhile, the BOC Multi-Sector Governance Council was awarded for its expertise and commitment extended to the bureau towards good governance and organizational transformation through the Performance Governance System.

Still at the anniversary celebrations, BOC held a viewing of newly acquired fast patrol boats and a demonstration of newly procured trace detection systems.

The agency earlier acquired 20 water patrol boats for use by the Water Patrol Division in boarding formalities, patrol, and water pursuits within the nation's borders.

Maersk 'set to suspend' Russia cargo bookings to comply with sanctions

- Maersk says it is prepared to suspend cargo bookings to and from Russia on ocean and inland in compliance with international sanctions against Russia
- The company tells customers it is closely watching the situation after Russia's invasion of Ukraine and assessing the best options for customers and their cargo
- Maersk's focus on safeguarding reefers and keeping cold chain operations stable, as their commodities include groceries and pharmaceuticals

MAERSK says it is prepared to suspend bookings for ocean and inland container cargo shipments to and from Russia to comply with international sanctions against that country for invading Ukraine.

The Sweden-based liner company said in its latest statement that it is closely monitoring the conflict and assessing the best options for its customers and their cargo.

"We are closely monitoring and preparing to comply with the ever-evolving sanctions and restrictions imposed against Russia while we safeguard our operations and our people in consideration of the constantly developing situation," Maersk said in its fifth customer advisory since the invasion began on February 24.

The liner operator said that it will deliver cargo shipments already at sea to their intended destination, with a sharp focus on safeguarding reefer containers and keeping cold chain operations as stable as possible, as the commodities include important goods such as groceries and pharmaceuticals.

"We are doing everything possible to prevent risk to the above cargo and, in turn, risk to the end-users in need of these commodities. It's also worth noting that air space is also gradually being restricted and our air services will be impacted," Maersk said.

The company reiterated that the security and well-being of Maersk employees

remain a top priority as the conflict enters its sixth day.

The United States, European Union, Canada and Britain have all imposed sanctions against Russia after President Vladimir Putin sent his troops, aircraft and armor into Ukraine last week in a bid to topple its pro-NATO President Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

The measures include blocking certain Russian banks' access to the SWIFT international payment system and freezing the assets of Russia's central bank.

The shipping giant has been active in Russia since 1992 and operates routes to and from the key ports of St. Petersburg,

Novorossiysk, Vladivostok, Vostochny and Kaliningrad. Its previous advisory said it had stopped accepting bookings to and from Ukraine until further notice.

"We have global coverage for any customer requests coming to the Ukraine Customer Experience teams. Normal requests will be handled as usual, but we ask for patience as global teams handle country-specific requests," Maersk said, promising to give customers "the best ability to manage your supply chain."





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Jan	22003N	9-Mar	10-Mar	18-Mar	19-Mar	20-Mar

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Jonathan Swift	OKRNUN	16-Mar	17-Mar	26-Mar

SPX1 - Manila - Xiamen - Hong Kong - Shekou LCT: CARGO: NORTH MON 0900H / SOUTH TUE 0900H

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Hansa Fresenburg	22002N	9-Mar	10-Mar	11-Mar	12-Mar	12-Mar
Nordpuma	OJV8QN	8-Mar	8-Mar	13-Mar	16-Mar	16-Mar

SPX2 - Manila - Shanghai - Ningbo - Xiamen LCT: CARGO: NORTH SAT 0900H / SOUTH SUN 0900H

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NCR, more areas under Alert Level 1 from March 1-15

- The National Capital Region's COVID-19 alert level will be downgraded from 2 to 1 starting March 1-15
- Many other areas across the nation will also be under Alert Level 1 as the overall number of COVID-19 infections continue to slide

The Inter-Agency Task Force on the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases on February 27 approved placing the National Capital Region and 38 other areas under Alert Level 1 from March 1 to 15.

Apart from NCR, other areas in Luzon under Alert Level 1 from March 1 to 15, 2022 are:

- Abra, Apayao, Baguio City and Kalinga in the Cordillera Administrative Region;
 - Dagupan City, Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur, La Union and Pangasinan in Region I;
 - Batanes, Cagayan, City of Santiago, Isabela and Quirino in Region II;
 - Angeles City, Aurora, Bataan, Bulacan, Olongapo City, Pampanga and Tarlac in Region III;
 - Cavite and Laguna in Region IV-A;
 - Marinduque, Puerto Princesa City and Romblon in Region IV-B; and
 - Naga City and Catanduanes in Region V
- Under Alert Level in Visayas 1 from March 1 to 15, 2022 are:
- Aklan, Bacolod City, Capiz and Guimaras in Region VI;
 - Siquijor in Region VII; and
 - Biliran in Region VIII.

In Mindanao, the following areas are also

under Alert Level 1 from March 1 to 15, 2022:

- Zamboanga City in Region IX;
- Cagayan de Oro City and Camiguin in Region X; and
- Davao City in Region XI.

Meanwhile, the IATF placed the following areas under Alert Level 2 from March 1 to 15:

- For Luzon
 - Cordillera Administrative Region: Benguet, Ifugao and Mountain Province
 - Region II: Nueva Vizcaya
 - Region III: Nueva Ecija and Zambales
 - Region IV-A: Batangas, Lucena City, Quezon Province and Rizal
 - Region IV-B: Occidental Mindoro, Oriental Mindoro and Palawan
 - Region V: Albay, Camarines Norte, Camarines Sur, Masbate and Sorsogon
- For Visayas
- Region VI: Antique, Iloilo City, Iloilo Province and Negros Occidental
 - Region VII: Bohol, Cebu Province, Cebu City, Lapu-Lapu City, Mandaue City and Negros Oriental
 - Region VIII: Eastern Samar, Leyte, Northern Samar, Ormoc City, Southern Leyte, Tacloban City and Western Samar
 - Region IX: City of Isabela, Zamboanga del Sur, Zamboanga del Norte and Zamboanga Sibugay
 - Region X: Bukidnon, Iligan City, Lanao del Norte, Misamis Occidental and Misamis Oriental
 - Region XI: Davao De Oro, Davao Del Sur, Davao Del Norte, Davao Oriental and Davao Occidental
 - Region XII: General Santos City, North Cotabato, Sarangani, South Cotabato and Sultan Kudarat
 - Region XIII (CARAGA) : Surigao del Norte, Surigao del Sur, Agusan del Norte, Agusan del Sur, Butuan City and Dinagat Islands
 - Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM): Basilan, Maguindanao, Sulu, Tawi-Tawi, Cotabato City and Lanao Del Sur

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GSL MERCER	011N	MAR 1	MAR 4	011S	MAR 7	MAR 8	MAR 8	MAR 10	MAR 13	MAR 15
CALIDRIS	089N	MAR 6	MAR 8	089S	MAR 12	MAR 13	MAR 13	MAR 15	MAR 20	MAR 22
GSL MERCER	012N	MAR 13	MAR 15	012S	MAR 19	MAR 20	MAR 20	MAR 21	MAR 27	MAR 29
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SBMA bullish over Subic seaborne trade...

Continued from page 2

shipping and logistics agencies and clients welcomed the vessel.

“MSC feels that there is a huge potential for growth, and we would like to cater to customers in this region who currently have had to travel all the way to Manila to load their cargoes,” Patki said, adding that more ship calls in Subic will be established in the near future.

SBMA’s Yambao pointed out MSC is the 25th shipping line to service the port of Subic. “This is an important milestone for Subic and the shipping industry in general because it is an opportunity for the Freeport to be known globally in terms of logistics capability,” he said.

Yambao added MSC is expected to service the needs of business locators not only in Subic, but also in Clark, Bataan and the rest of the economic zones in north Luzon.

MSC’s arrival follows the return of a service operated by Wan Hai Lines, a Taiwanese company which previously cancelled its call in Subic due to the Covid-19 pandemic. It recently reopened its Subic Express Service (SES) that calls Shekou, Subic, Batangas, Manila, Cebu, Taichung, Kaohsiung and Hong Kong.

The port of Subic has a container cargo capacity to 600,000 TEUs and caters to different types of cargo like grain, dry bulk, and oil and petroleum.

PPA seeks contractor for P980M container...

Continued from page 1

containers. The winning bidder will also provide local importers access to container insurance services.

In its invitation to bid, PPA said it will spend P980 million from its approved 2022 corporate budget for the Trusted Operator Program-Container Registry and Monitoring System (TOP-CRMS) and Empty Container Storage Shared Service Facility contract.

The project covers the supply, delivery of full technology stack, financing, technical implementation services, and managed services to successfully implement the TOP-CRMS of PPA.

The TOP-CRMS consists of inter-related program components, namely, the TOP; the container identification and control program; the container tracking program; and the container availability and insurance program.

The TOP will provide the required conventional and mobility systems and technology infrastructure to capture, store, and process subscription and transactional activities and integrated services made available to trusted operators.

The container identification and control program will enable PPA to digitally capture all inbound shipping containers in advance before its entry to any port in the country.

Container tracking

The container tracking program, meanwhile, will enable PPA to digitally tag all inbound shipping containers with a tracking device to provide full visibility of the utilization, movement and location of every foreign-owned container.

The container availability and insurance program, on the other hand, will provide local importers access to container insurance services. It will also provide PPA the ability to monitor financial transactions required by shipping lines for all inbound containers to safeguard the revenue interests of the government.

The TOP-CRMS will be launched and rolled out covering two pilot ports that house 98% of all the country's container traffic, namely Manila South Harbor and Manila International Container Terminal.

Completion of services for the technical implementation phase should not exceed 12 months from receipt by the successful bidder of the Notice to Proceed, while the managed services will be one year from the date of go-live or operationalization commissioning of the technical implementation phase.

Bidding details

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the 2016 Revised Implementing Rules and Regulations of Republic Act (RA) No. 9184, or the Government Procurement Reform Act.

Bidding is limited to Filipino citizens, proprietorships, partnerships, or organizations with at least 60% interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens and organizations of a country with laws or regulations that grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to RA 5183.

Bidders should also have completed a contract similar to the project within seven years.

A pre-bid conference will be held on March 8 while the deadline for the submission of bids, as well as the opening of bids, will be on March 22.

PPA in June 2021 conducted a virtual public hearing on its proposal to record and monitor in real time the movement of all import containers—from their discharge from the port terminal to their return to an empty depot and to the port for re-export—by introducing a new container

tracking and monitoring system.

Elmer Nonnatus Cadano, PPA assistant general manager for finance and administration, said the proposed system aims to improve trade facilitation and address concerns with logistics efficiency and costs, such as the longstanding issue of unreturned container deposits.

Cadano said the idea of a monitoring system came up during constant discussions between PPA and the Department of Trade and Industry, Bureau of Customs (BOC) and the private sector on logistics concerns and the role of ports in the country's security.

In October 2021, PPA issued Administrative Order (AO) No. 04-2021, which prescribes the policy on the registration and monitoring of containers entering and leaving PPA ports, including the scheduling, loading, unloading, release, and movement of all containers.

System features

Under the new policy, PPA will prescribe and adopt a system for the registration and monitoring of containers. The system will have features that include, among other things, a facility to record all containers passing in and out of the port terminals.

All containers are required to register in the system to be adopted by PPA and to secure a container insurance policy. The insurance policy will be used instead of the container deposit and container maintenance fees being required by international shipping lines "in order to protect local importers from additional transaction costs."

AO 04-2021 covers all containers originating from foreign ports for unloading at government or private ports under the administrative jurisdiction of PPA.

Stakeholders, however, have earlier voiced concerns that the proposed system might just duplicate the monitoring systems already in place for containers, particularly those set for discharge from terminals.

Unlike insurance fees, which are intended to replace container deposits to minimize costs, container deposits are returned to shippers, noted Julita Lopez, vice president for customs affairs of the Port Users Confederation of the Philippines, at the June 2021 public hearing.

Atty. Hiyasmin delos Santos, PPA Port Operations and Service Department manager, said in response that her office does not intend to duplicate existing systems but plans to interface the proposed system with them. She also noted that CRMS differs in purpose from BOC's Electronic Tracking of Containerized Cargoes system.

The Association of International Shipping Lines (AISL) earlier proposed to develop, manage, and implement a platform for the port authority's proposed container registry and monitoring system.

AISL's proposed digital platform will expand its existing GoFast Container Monitoring System, a web-based trade and logistics platform providing digital connectivity to foreign shipping lines,

importers and their authorized customs brokers, terminal operators, off-dock container freight stations, and off-dock depots.

AISL's proposed platform aims to facilitate the realization of PPA's proposed CRMS "that is acceptable to and supported by international shipping lines" and to "eliminate the need for expensive tagging devices and container tracking infrastructure and imposing an entirely container monitoring system that is not integrated with existing port user systems."

Streamlining transactions

In its bidding documents, PPA said it intends to procure a TOP-CRMS "that will introduce rational, cohesive, and integrated solutions that will solve persistent systemic problems affecting the overall performance and efficiencies of the PPA in areas related to its frontline and regulatory services, third-party man-

aged services, enforcement services, and inter-agency services."

The program aims to implement and institutionalize the CRMS, which aims to streamline transactions in support of trade facilitation, ease of doing business and border protection programs of the government.

It also seeks to establish and institutionalize a system of empty container storage shared services facilities to alleviate storage problems for laden containers and augment the capabilities of PPA.

In addition, the program aims to provide a credible record to enable PPA to accurately collect all required regulatory storage fees and/or penalties as may be required by PPA and other revenue collection agencies.

Lastly, it aims to streamline the payment process and collection of port fees and harmonize it with the existing electronic payment system of PPA. —Roumina Pablo

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SBMA posts record P387M income in Jan

- *Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority recorded a record income of P387 million in January*
- *The figure is the highest monthly revenue ever posted by the agency in its almost 30 year-history*
- *Resurgent seaport trade boosted revenues*
- *SBMA's seaport operations alone contributed P221.4 million to the January total*
- *Operating revenue grew 31% year-on-year in January*

SUBIC Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) recorded an income of P387 million in January, the highest monthly revenue ever recorded by the agency in its almost 30-year history, boosted by a resurgent seaport trade.

The next highest monthly revenue recorded by SBMA was P358 million in pre-pandemic June 2019.

Operating revenue for January also grew 31% year-on-year.

SBMA Chairman and Administrator Wilma Eisma in a statement said the record-breaking income on the first month of the year came with other positive indicators: a 41% growth in earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization; and a 20% increase in net income before tax with subsidy, which at P222 million was higher by P38 million.

SBMA's seaport operations alone contributed P221.4 million to the January total, of which P91.62 million came from cargo charges; P75.32 million in SBMA share from terminal income; P34.17 million from leases and rentals; and P12.28 million from vessel charges.

"We are hoping that this January record will be a foretaste of what's to come in the

succeeding months, as we ease down into normalcy with the waning COVID-19 pandemic," said Eisma.

She added, SBMA "set its sights higher this year, especially with seaborne trade, after realizing an actual increase in container cargo traffic even at the height of the pandemic in 2021."

Other income

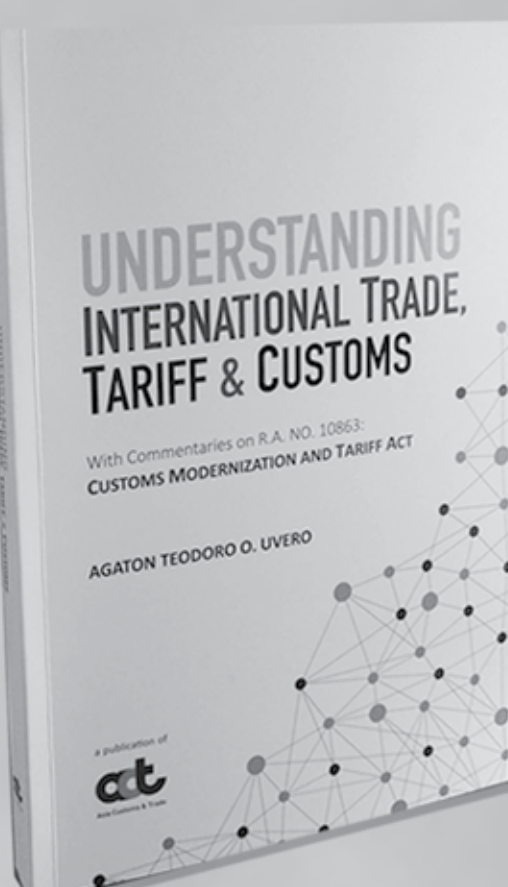
According to a profit and loss statement from the SBMA Financial Planning and Budget Department, other than the P221 million from seaport operations, the agency's January 2022 revenue of P387 million was enhanced by P111 million in land and building leases; P28 million in regulatory income; P8 million in housing leases; P6 million in airport operations; P.67 million in tourism collections; and P12 million in miscellaneous income.

Land leases brought in revenues of P64.73 million and building leases, P45.98 million. The total for both of P111 million is 1.8% down from January 2020's P113 million, SBMA budget officer Edith Marzal. The slight decline was offset by a 65% jump in seaport income, 35% rise in housing leases, and 20% growth in miscellaneous income, she added.

SBMA airport operations income increased 6% in January from the same month last year while regulatory fees grew by 8% and tourism income by 48%.

The agency also reported an aggregate 11% increase in its expense accounts with P67 million in manpower payroll services; P12 million in debt servicing; P10 million in occupancy costs; P1 million in repair and maintenance; P.07 million in advertising and promotion; and P14 million in various services.

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