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PPA **revises** cargo, revenue **forecast** to at best flat this year

The Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) is overhauling its growth forecast for this year despite registering a banner year in 2016.

The state-owned corporation now anticipates growth to be nominal this year from the previous year's exponential growth due to vital developments over the past three months.

PPA General Manager Jay Daniel R. Santiago explained that the tapered expectation is attributable to the continuing volatility of the Philippine currency as well as the expected drop in the operation of the mining industry in the Philippines.

"Last year was a great year for the agency as we were able to post significant figures in terms of cargo volume and revenues," Santiago said.

"This year, however, will be different as we anticipate it to be nominal due to several developments particularly in the mining industry, which has been one of our growth areas during the past couple of years," Santiago stressed.

turn to page 7



JOINT COOPERATION

The Philippine Ports Authority and the City of Kobe forged a mutual agreement to promote stable and sustainable development of ports.

Manila **ranks** 36th among **top** 100 Container ports

The Port of Manila jumps two notches higher to number 36 in the ranking of the top 100 Container Ports, according to a report released by Lloyd's List and Containerization International in 2016, covering container ports' performance for 2015.

The report showed that the Philippines was able to increase its ranking after the country was shielded from the slowdown in China that has hurt other emerging nations in 2015, as government stepped up efforts to unlock bottlenecks in state spending and entice investment.

It added that the growth in the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) exceeded expectations

anchored on the 6.1% pace posted in the third quarter for the period in review. Philippine GDP in the three months through to December for the period increased 6.3%.

Manila's economy, for the whole of the period, grew 5.8%.

"Port of Manila registered a 4.3% hike in container throughput, with principal facility the Manila International Container Terminal (MICT) posting a 4.4% increase in

turn to page 6

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BIMP-EAGA, Asean logistics developments highlight 2017 Ports and Shipping Confab

The strong emergence of BIMP-EAGA and the massive developments along the Asean logistics gateways toward the completion of the Asean Economic Community highlighted the 9th Ports and Shipping Conference held in the country in February this year.



Transport Secretary Arthur P. Tugade was the Guest of Honor and Speaker during the 9th Ports and Shipping Conference. He also led the ribbon-cutting to formally open the Exhibition of the event with PPA GM Jay Daniel R. Santiago (right) and Transport Events Managing Director Rory Doyle.

The Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) hosted the February 22-24, 2017 event at the Peninsula Hotel Manila wherein more than a hundred decision makers, shipping line representatives, cargo handlers and port operators and other logistics stakeholders attended.

PPA General Manager Jay Daniel R. Santiago, in his opening speech, said the holding of the event is very timely considering the vast developments being carried out along the Brunei-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines-East Asian Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA) as well as along the trading corridors of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean).

"This is a great opportunity for the Philippines, through the PPA, to showcase the developments like the Ro-Ro link between the Philippines and Indonesia that is set to start late April this year," Santiago said.

"All the players within BIMP-EAGA and Asean are closely looking at the developments of this Ro-Ro route which will serve as the springboard for future links between and among the other member nations," Santiago stressed.

"The Philippines is also in the process of modernizing its Ro-Ro vessels and ports to easily adapt to the demands of the Asean-wide Ro-Ro operations in the future that is also brought about by the AEC," Santiago added.

The Philippines and Indonesia, as of the moment, are finalizing some details of the Ro-Ro route that is meant to strengthen trade relations between the two neighboring countries and is expected reduce travel time to and from the two countries from 5 weeks to 3 days.

The new 3-day trade route will start in Davao City or General Santos City and will sail southwards to cross the Celebes Sea and go directly to Bitung City.

PPA is also advocating that member ports of the Asean Ports Association to align their policies and port infrastructure improvements to take advantage of China's Maritime Silk Road (MSR), which is a sea route from the South China Sea and South East Asia, through the Indian Ocean and Middle East area into the eastern Mediterranean and extends to Europe. ■

PPA joins International Port Conference in Kobe, Japan

The Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) attended the International Port Conference in Kobe, Japan on February 12-14, 2017.

The event centered on Port Logistics and Perspectives in Globalized Society. PPA General Manager Jay Daniel R. Santiago led the Philippine contingent along with PPA Assistant General Manager for Operations Hector E. Miole and PPA Assistant General Manager for Finance and Administration Atty. Elmer Nonnatus A. Cadano.

The Philippines is one of the more than 20 ports in Asia, America and Europe invited to attend the event, which also coincided with the 150th Anniversary of the Port of Kobe.

Kobe City Mayor Kizo Hisamoto and Dr. Katsuhiko Kuroda, Professor Emeritus at Kobe University, delivered their respective welcome speech during the Opening Ceremony.

PPA AGM for Operations Hector E. Miole, meanwhile, made a presentation on Port Logistics Control for Asian Ports, which is one of the main talking points during the first day of the conference held at the Kobe Portopia Hotel. Other topics discussed include Environmental Policy for Port Management and Environment Surrounding Port and Cruise Industry.

On the second day, Tri-ports seminar and Kobe's Sister and Friendship Ports' Meeting was held to tackle the "Redevelopment of a Port City Waterfront Area".

Delegates were also engaged in a tree-planting activity and excursion in the City of Kobe.

As a side event, the PPA and the City of Kobe forged a mutual agreement to promote stable and sustainable development of ports. (ATMB) ■

Bangladesh meets PPA
Delegates from the Parliament, Ministry of Shipping, and the Chittagong Port Authority of Bangladesh visited the Philippine Ports Authority on January 13, 2017, headed by Mohammad Abdul Hye, member of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Ministry of Shipping. The main objective of their visit is to gather information, ideas and experiences on port management and development which they may implement in their own ports. (ATMB) ■



Surigao revenues surpass P500 million mark

The Port Management Office of Surigao broke past HALF BILLION in annual revenues for the first time in more than three decades as total income for CY 2016 reached Php505 million, up by 8% over revenue target.

Continuing an upward trend in revenues for the past eight years, increased volume in the exportation of mineral products at private mining ports, along with longer port stays, pushed revenues up to record-breaking levels in 2016. Last year saw vessels loading more than the usual 50,000 metric tons of nickel ore with increased frequency, which more than offset the drop in foreign shipcalls, leading to increased gains in the collection of port charges.

Though the gains were largely brought by positive inputs in the local mining industry, increased passenger traffic and domestic shipcalls, particularly at the Lipata

Ferry Terminal, contributed in no small measure to the upturn in revenue, as trips serving the Lipata – Liloan v.v. route increased with the entry of Archipelago Philippine Ferries Corporation (APFC) FastCAT.

Moreover, the operationalization of Passenger Terminal facilities at the Port of Del Carmen in Siargao Islands and the Port of San Jose in Dinagat Islands contributed to the increase in last year's take with the collection of Passenger Terminal Fees.

Such positive inputs, along with strict implementation of cash and carry policy, paved the way for last year's fiscal gains. ■

Ro-Ro ports, vessels **ready** to handle classic, vintage **vehicles**

The Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) announced that Philippine Ro-Ro ports are now more than capable to handle the special requirements of transporting classic, vintage and sophisticated vehicle.



The members of the Porsche Club Philippines—7 from Luzon, 10 from Cebu and 1 from the host city—converged in Iloilo for their first-ever get together using the Nautical Highway as their virtual moving bridge.

In 2003, the government issued a policy to promote Ro-Ro, a system designed to carry rolling stock cargo that does not require cranes for loading or unloading.

The Strong Republic Nautical Highway is one of former President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's priority programs to ensure fast and economical movement of goods and people, and to boost domestic tourism and trade.

The Asian Development Bank

earlier said the Ro-Ro system had cut the cost of the transport system as well as the travel time in the Philippines.

Porsche Club Philippines utilizes Nautical Highway

This after the members of the Manila Sports Car Club (MSCC) and the Porsche Club Philippines, onboard their classic Porsche Targa and Carrera machines, successfully traversed the Luzon, Panay and Visayas regions with ports and Ro-Ro vessels acting as

conduits to connect the islands.

The trip, in coordination with the PPA, involves 7 cars from the MSCC and 10 cars from the Cebu group meeting halfway in the City of Iloilo covering close to 550 kilometers one way for the Manila group and 300 km for the Cebu group. The travel also involved two Ro-Ro transfers for both legs with average sailing time of 3 hours each trip for the Manila group and 2 hours each for the Cebu group.

"There is no better way to market the readiness of our ports and encourage vehicle owners who are adamant to use the Ro-Ro highway than to have these classic, high-value vehicles have a firsthand experience of Ro-Ro travel," PPA General Manager Jay Daniel R. Santiago explained.

"We have been proofing our ports to handle these kinds of vehicles and the successful run of the two groups have affirmed that the Authority made the right investment," Santiago stressed.

"Safety and security are also not an issue as the two groups made it safely back home despite encountering some mechanical problems during their long drives," Santiago said.

Also, the refueling program currently being adopted by several Ro-Ro operators along the highway further improved the attractiveness of the Road Ro-Ro Terminal System to the public.

Similarly, the road modernization by the Department of Public Works and Highways along the Ro-Ro highway also guarantees a very smooth ride.

As of the moment, there are three main Ro-Ro arteries in the country, namely, the Western Nautical Highway, which connects Luzon and Mindanao via Batangas, Mindoro, Aklan, Iloilo, Bacolod, Dumaguete and Dapitan; the Central Nautical Highway that links Luzon to Mindanao via

Sorsogon, Masbate, Cebu, Bohol, Camiguin and Cagayan de Oro, and, the Eastern Nautical Highway, which runs through Southern Luzon, the Bicol region, the provinces of Samar and Leyte and connects to eastern Mindanao in Surigao del Norte province. These routes are separated by some 50 nautical miles with average sailing time of 3 hours.

Backpackers can also enjoy the comforts of travelling through the Ro-Ro highway as several bus operators are maintaining predictable schedules along the three nodes like Philtranco, Jam Liner and Ceres, among others, while UV Express services are also available in almost every port.

"I am enjoining everyone to try and take advantage of our Ro-Ro highway because it is one of the best alternatives as it offers a wide array of opportunities to visit our islands compared to air travel," Santiago said.

Congressional Ro-Ro Tour

Exactly a month after the PCP Expedition, the House of Representatives led by no less than Speaker Pantaleon Alvarez, Majority Floor Leader Rodolfo Fariñas and Transportation Committee Head Cesar Sarmiento, along with other 8 members of the Lower House, embarked on an 11-day Ro-Ro tour that ended on March 27.

The purpose of the tour is to determine loopholes that is keeping the Ro-Ro industry in some areas of the country almost at berth and legislate, if needed, budgetary requirements to address the problem areas.

The Representatives started their journey in Batangas Port dawn of March 17 traversing Calapan and Bulalacao in Mindoro, Caticlan to Iloilo via Kalibo and Iloilo to Bacolod before having a 6-hour ride to Dumaguete and another 4-hour Ro-Ro ride to the Port of Dapitan in Zamboanga. They likewise had a 2-day road trip from Dapitan to Davao City passing through the provinces of Cagayan de Oro and Bukidnon. This route comprises the Western Nautical Highway, which is considered the



The members of the House of Representatives who joined the tour, led by Speaker Pantaleon Alvarez and Majority Floor Leader Rodolfo Fariñas, deliberate on the first leg of the expedition including environmental issues clouting the world-famous Boracay Island.

They survived! The PPA Ro-Ro exploration team who organized the Congressional tour took time to pose with House Speaker Bebot Alvarez (extreme left) and Majority Floor leader Rudy Fariñas (2nd from right). The PPA team is composed of Siony B. Flores (3rd from left), EA for Communications, Eddie R. Cordova (2nd from left), Corporate Communications Chief, Anna Theresa M. Biscocho (3rd from right), Public Relations Assistant and Reselle Rose B. Regis, Executive Secretary.

tourism corridor of the Road Ro-Ro Terminal System of the Philippines.

For their return trip, the group took the Eastern Nautical Highway, also known as the Pan Philippine Highway, that was established during the Marcos Regime.

From Davao, they travelled to Lipata in Surigao via Butuan before taking a Ro-Ro ride to Liloan in Samar. Another road travel passing through Tacloban and Calbayog before taking a Ro-Ro to Matnog also allowed the team to reflect on the state of the region some 4 years after Super Typhoon Yolanda struck the area.

Initial results of the Congressional Tour show that one of the glaring problems that needs to be addressed

the soonest is the access road to and from the ports.

The House of Representatives, through the Transport Committee, is expected to come up with the full result of their tour when they resume their session on May 2.

The House of Representatives is also looking at traversing the Northern Nautical Highway connecting the provinces of Quezon, Isabela, Cagayan and Batanes, among others, before the 2nd State of the Nation Address of President Rodrigo Roa Duterte.

This congressional initiative is part of the overall plan of the Duterte Administration to strengthen the Philippine maritime industry. ■



The Luzon Group pose for a shot shortly after arrival at the Port of Calapan with Port Manager Annie Lee F. Manese (5th from left) before embarking on a 3 hour ride to the Port of Bulalacao to catch a ferry bound for Caticlan.

DOTr Secretary **Tugade** visits PMO NL as new PPA AGME **stresses** need for new baseport

Department of Transportation (DOTr) Secretary Arthur P. Tugade recently visited the Port Management Office of Northern Luzon to determine the state of the ports in the region.

DOTr Sec. Tugade, along with Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) General Manager Jay Daniel R. Santiago, led the unveiling of the gate markers for Claveria and Currimao terminals.

As this develops, PPA Assistant General Manager for Engineering Constante T. Fariñas, Jr. stressed the need to establish a new baseport for Northern Luzon in his recent visit to the PMO.

Fariñas explained that there is no assurance that the seaport of San Fernando will be once again turned over to the control of the PPA.

Among the areas being considered, as recommended in the feasibility study conducted by Schema Konsult, to be the new location of the baseport include Carlatan in San Fernando City or the Currimao Port itself.

Meanwhile Port Manager Marieta G. Odicta presented to the newly-minted PPA official the priority areas for development in Northern Luzon, which include among others, the Port of Currimao in Ilocos Norte; Port of Salomague in Ilocos Sur, Port of Claveria in Cagayan and Port of Basco in Batanes. (By: Remy Ancheta-Trinidad) ■



Manila ranks...

from Page 1

containers handled," the report showed.

Among the reasons that Manila posted favorable growth are the inauguration of Berth 7 at the MICT, which included the commissioning of four rubber-tyred gantries, the rollout of the terminal appointment booking system (TABS) ahead of the anticipated increase in container movements prior to the Christmas holiday season and the revival of ICTSI's inland container depot in Laguna.

TABS is an electronic platform for booking containers in the two international ports of Manila. The system was developed in response to restrictive road policies that were introduced to combat heavy congestion of Manila ports in 2014 as a result of the truck ban imposed by the Manila City government.

Philippine container volume, meanwhile, for the

entire 2016 posted positive figures rising 12% to 6.574 million twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs) from 5.861 million TEUs handled in 2015. Foreign containers inched up 14.11% to 3.973 million TEUs while domestic boxes rose 9.28% to 2.6 million TEUs for the period in review. Total import boxes is at 2.005 million TEUs while Export containers is at 1.968 million TEUs wherein both posted increases of 15.4% and 12.8%, respectively.

Among the ports that registered strong performance include the Manila International Container Terminal and Manila South Harbor for international cargoes, North Harbor for domestic cargoes as well as Cagayan de Oro, Davao and Iloilo.

However, despite the banner year, the PPA is overhauling its growth forecast for this year due to vital developments over the past two months.

PPA General Manager Jay Daniel Santiago explained that the tapered expectation is attributable to the continuing volatility of the Philippine currency as well as the expected drop in the operation of the mining industry in the Philippines. ■

PMO **Zamboanga** del Norte **honors** Dr. Jose P. Rizal

The Philippine Ports Authority Port Management Office of Zamboanga del Norte proudly honored our national hero, Dr. Jose P. Rizal at the exact place of his exile at Rizal Shrine, Dapitan City, Zamboanga del Norte.

In line with the 120th Rizal Day Commemoration, a short program was held at the same site early morning of Friday, December 30, 2016 with the city's Honorable Mayor Rosalina "Nene" Jalosjos escorted by other city officials, leading the wreath offering.

PMO-Zamboanga del Norte's Port Manager, Engr. Salvador L. Delina, accompanied by PMO officers and staff, was among those who offered laurels at a nearby statue of the national hero. A local musical band was invited to lead the singing of the Philippine National Anthem during the Flag Raising Ceremony. The program included a detailed informative talk



on Rizal's life and its relevance in today's Philippine society, which is in line with the theme: "Rizal: Bayaning Global, Aydol ni Juan".

Port Manager Engr. Salvador L. Delina also took the chance to discuss with Honorable Mayor

Rosalina Jalosjos the development of the port within the city's jurisdiction. The PMO personnel took advantage of the opportunity to greet the city mayor and other government officials who were on stage. (Dr. Bonifacio L. Loquias, Jr.) ■

PPA revises...

from Page 1

"Based on our review, almost all our revenue prospects have reduced targets prompting us to scale down our 2017 gross revenue projection to only 3% in spite of the favorable estimated GDP growth rate of 7.5%.

"Nonetheless, PPA will remain resilient and committed to carry out its mandate of better connectivity and service amidst these developments," Santiago added.

Among the hard-hit areas by the issues clouting the Philippine mining industry include the ports under the Port Management Offices of Surigao, Nasipit, Palawan, Batangas, Manila, Northern Luzon, among others. These ports handle the bulk of the shipments from the mining firms like nickel, manganese, smelted copper and refined copper including pumice, marble, silica sand as well as iron ore, chromium, silver and Zinc.

In Surigao alone, it broke past a half billion in annual revenues for the first time in more than three decades anchored on the increased volume in the exportation of mineral products at private mining ports, along with longer port stays and increased frequency of vessel calls. Other developments which are expected to adversely affect PPA revenues are as follows: entitlement to 50% reduce tariff rate of power companies granted contract by IPPA;

establishment of ecozones with integrated port components taking away from PPA jurisdiction over certain ports and narrowing down PPA revenue base; and closure while undergoing repair/rehab of facilities damaged by earthquake and/or typhoon.

Meanwhile, the revised revenue projection of the PPA this year is pegged at P14.59 billion which is only 3% higher than that of 2016.

Revised Operating Expenses, on the other hand, ballooned to P16.22 billion this year from only P12.79 billion last year while total capital expenditures is lower at P7.42 billion compared to the P7.71 billion in 2016. Capex includes the modernization of Mindanao and Visayas ports like Iloilo, Gen. Santos, Cagayan de Oro and Zamboanga, improvement of passenger terminal buildings and the implementation of numerous other capital expenditure projects nationwide.

Total Budgetary Outlays for the Authority this year is now pegged at P23.64 billion compared to the total budget source of P23.87 billion.

Last year, the PPA posted a P6.159 billion net profit, beating the target by 165% or P3.836 billion.

PPA was able to achieve the feat with strong figures coming from Wharfage, Dockage fees and fixed variable fees from MICT and ATI.

Compared to the year-ago level, the 2016 figure is 8% better against the P5.705 billion registered in 2015.

"While we expect this condition to be temporary, the Authority is bracing itself for a challenging 2017," Santiago said. ■

PPA celebrates Women's Month with forum on women's health

The Philippine Ports Authority conducted a forum on Women's Mental and Physical Health on March 30, 2017 at the PPA Corporate Building in support of the worldwide observance of National Women's Month Celebration (NWMC).



During the forum, female employees from different departments actively engaged in the discussions and Q&A with Dr. Ian Albert S. Sangeles who was invited to be the resource speaker. Dr. Sangeles is a family medicine practitioner and has been the company physician for PPA since 2015.

The first part of the forum mainly focused on the signs and symptoms of mental illness, which include

sleeping problems, alcohol or drug abuse, withdrawal from friends and activities, detachment from reality and suicidal thoughts, among others. According to study, the most common psychiatric disorders in women are major depressive disorder, perinatal depression, perimenopause-related depression, premenstrual dysphoric disorder and anxiety disorder. However, these mental illnesses may actually be maintained and managed according to Dr. Sangeles.

Breast and cervical cancer, two of the most common health concerns for women, were the focal talking points during the second part of the forum. Due to increase in cases of breast and cervical cancer, women are urged to keep themselves informed of its symptoms and risk factors as well as on how they can avoid developing these health risks. Dr. Sangeles also educated the group how to conduct breast self-examination (BSE) and the importance of a Pap smear.

Every year, PPA embarks on initiatives to support the advocacy of encouraging women and acknowledging their notable role and contributions to the society and the workplace. (ATMB) ■

PMO NO/S launches 'WOW ang Biyahe' campaign in celebration of the Nat'l Women's Month

In celebration of the 2017 National Women's Month, Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) Port Management Office of Negros Oriental / Siquijor (PMO NO/S) launches the "WOW ang Biyahe" campaign on March 10, 2017.

Wima on Watch (WOW) is a joint program of PPA PMO NO/S and Women in Maritime Central & Eastern Visayas Regional Chapter.

Together, with the active women of PPA PMO NO/S, a brief educational talk on board passenger vessels, was conducted by Port Manager Atty. Sarah R. Mijares emphasizing that safety and security of passengers is everybody's business. The passenger safety campaign poster with Bisaya translation was also presented to the public to increase awareness on safety requirements at sea.

Brochures on Anti-Violence Against Women and Their Children Act of 2004 were distributed as well as the discount cards for massage services. ■

