

## DTI 4-A, ATI, PPA aim a bigger, better, and smarter trade solution for Southern Luzon



To promote the competitive advantages of using the Batangas International Port for cargoes (in-bound/outbound), the Department of Trade and Industry Region 4-A, in cooperation with the Asian Terminals, Inc. and the Philippine Ports Authority (PPA)-Batangas, conducted “The Batangas Port Forum” for the benefit of industry stakeholders and potential users, presenting updates and developments on the Batangas Container Terminal (BCT) on August 15, 2019 in Batangas City, Batangas.

“We, in the DTI, would like our manufacturers and exporters here in CALABARZON to further grow and develop by being efficient and cost effective in their logistics and transportation cost in bringing their goods to their intended market. Likewise, we would like Batangas Port to be fully utilized and efficient, not just as a transshipment hub but also as a port that can directly ship cargoes to international destinations at the least possible time,” said DTI CALABARZON Director Marilou Q. Toledo.

The forum tackled issues that hinder industries, exporters, importers, and other stakeholders from utilizing the port fully, including the big possibility to have a direct shipment from Batangas Port to Japan once the volume

requirement is met, shortening the transit time. Subsequently, a windshield tour around Batangas port was provided.

In the presentation of ATI Marketing Manager Jel M. Yulo on updates and development of the Batangas Port, she enumerated the advantages to Southern Luzon exporters and manufacturers of using the Batangas Port: improved cash flow; maximized free time of shipping lines; lesser storage cost versus port charges; lesser trucking cost; and shorter delivery call-in lead time. Some of the recent developments in the port are the ongoing civil works on crane rails, berth connectivity, yard rehabilitation, and expanded container yard.

Moreover, ATI released its first mobile application named Mobile Port or MPort—designed in its first stage to bring information on Client’s transaction by giving data as it happens when it happens.

“The presence of everyone in the government and private sector is a clear manifestation of their great commitment towards the economic prosperity of our country, particularly in response to the increasing business opportunity in the CALABARZON region,” said PPA Batangas

Acting Manager Ambrocio O. Ilao.

“Rest assured that the PPA will support and serve in this growing business opportunity by providing port facilities and services of global standard,” added Ilao.

Around 100 participants from shipping lines such as Sealand Maersk, CMA-CGM, Evergreen Shipping, COSCO Shipping, and Wan Hai Lines, ecozone associations from the electronics, automotive, and metals sectors, manufacturers from coco-based and food sector, and government agencies like the Bureau of Customs and the National Economic Development Authority attended the forum.

The event was an offshoot of the Roundtable Discussion (RTD) on Batangas Port Issues held last June 28, 2019 in Calamba City, Laguna attended by representatives from the DTI 4-A, DTI Batangas, ATI, PPA, Export Marketing Bureau, Board of Investments, Bureau of Import Services, Export Development Council, Regional Development Council-Sectoral Committee on Infrastructure Development, Philippine Economic Zone Authority, Light Industry & Science Park II and III, and logistics and shipping companies.

### Chinese, 4 others nabbed as cops foil kidnap try in Makati

**MANILA** -- Authorities foiled a kidnapping attempt and arrested five suspects, including a Chinese national, in Makati City early Wednesday.

Maj. Gideon Ines, Makati Police Public Information Officer, identified the victim as Ma Zhi Rui, 36.

The suspects were identified as Zhaochun Chen alias Zhan Hao, 21; Mark Anthony Pareño, 39; John Muega, 24; Reyán Villanueva, 35; and Jose Marie Lavilla, 31.

Ines said the five suspects were arrested by Corporals Rene Boy Gonzales, Kay Razvi Quijano, Caren Medina, and Israel Ngeteg who were conducting patrols along Kalayaan corner Burgos St. in Barangay Poblacion at around 2 a.m. Wednesday.

The policemen earlier noticed a commotion where a Chinese man was being dragged by the five suspects into the white Toyota Hiace van with conduction sticker VX-1750.

He said the cops accosted the suspects and immediately placed them under arrest. Suspect Chen, the police said, even tried to buy his way out by offering them PHO100,000 bribe.

The suspects were brought to the Makati City Police Station and are set to be charged with kidnapping and bribery. (PNA)

## Marikina enforces 'no garage, no building permit' policy

**MANILA** -- Business establishments in Marikina City will now be required to provide proof that they have a parking space before they can get a building permit from the Marikina City government.

In a press briefing Wednesday, Mayor Marcelino “Marcy” Teodoro said the city’s “no car garage, no building permit” ordinance is in compliance with the campaign to clear roads of any obstructions and illegal structures.

“Anyone who intends to construct a structure shall be required to show proof like the presentation of a building plan or blueprint or, attesting to the availability of a permanent parking space or facility on his/her proposed construction as a requirement for the issuance of a building permit,” the Section 3 of the amended ordinance authored by Councilor Donn Favis stated.

Favis, meanwhile, said the amendment on the ordinance was done to make sure that roads in Marikina City will be utilized by motorists, saying it was in compliance with the directive of the DILG to clear roads and sidewalks of obstructions.

“The idea is to have an ordinance implementing a ‘No Car Garage, No Building Permit’ policy. So, technically it would be to require as a prerequisite for the application and approval of a building permit to have a vehicle provision for parking. Mandatory. That way, we could resolve the problem with people in residential structures who park on roads,” he told reporters.

The councilor explained that requiring such will declog or lessen the number of vehicles parked on some roads where the city government allow parking.

“In Marikina, it is a no-no to park on a sidewalk. However, there are certain specified roads that allow one-side parking or both sides parking, or either sides no parking. So through that ordinance, we can lessen vehicles parked on the roads and streets; declogging of course the traffic; handling problems with homeowners which cause conflict because some people think that the cars parked in front of their homes belong to them,” Favis added.

Favis also disclosed that subdivisions in the city will soon have to remove their gates in order to provide alternate routes for motorists.

“The removal of gates of subdivisions to give alternate route to motorists was approved last week. The idea is to use their roads,” he said.

Despite objections from some homeowners’ associations, he reiterated that they will soon have to comply.

Teodoro said some of the subdivisions have voluntarily re-

moved their gates in compliance with the ordinance.

According to Teodoro, many businesses have popped up in Marikina because businessmen learned from the news that the city has no obstructions.

Marikina City has fully complied with the 60-day deadline imposed by the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) to clear roads and sidewalks of obstructions in Metro Manila.

“Based on the comprehensive manual report, there are ‘non-applicable’ remarks on us. It’s because we have cleared many sidewalks immediately,” Teodoro said.

Teodoro earlier said the DILG might adopt Marikina’s manual report as a benchmark for other cities in Metro Manila.

The 60-day deadline given to local officials to reclaim public roads to ease traffic congestions was in compliance with the directive of President Rodrigo Duterte, a former mayor of Davao City. (PNA)

## More relief goods transported to quake-hit Itbayat

**MANILA** – The transport of relief goods to Itbayat, Batanes, which was heavily-battered by twin quakes last July 27, is still ongoing, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) said Wednesday.

The transport of various food and non-food items took place from Monday to Wednesday, NDRRMC executive director Ricardo Jalad said in a statement.

This is to ensure the continuous supply of food and relief items for the victims of the quake, he added.

Jalad said the Philippine Navy ship, BRP Pangasinan (PS-31), along with the Air Force’s C-295 transport aircraft and commercial bancas were utilized to deploy these relief items.

On Monday, a total of 795 sacks of family food packs, 312 boxes of relief supplies, 32 sacks of rice (25 kgs each), 10 sacks of 50-kg rice, six boxes of sardines, eight boxes of instant noodles, six boxes of instant coffee, 30,000 liters of mineral water, and 92 boxes of assorted grocery items were transported to Itbayat by BRP Pangasinan.

On Tuesday, 14 boxes of assorted relief goods and 88 sacks of rice were sent through PAF’s C-295 plane. Then, from August 20-21, 71 drums (at 200 liters per drum) of diesel fuel were brought to Itbayat utilizing commercial motor bancas.

Jalad said these supplies were sent to Itbayat in response to the victims’ additional need for relief items. Prior to these latest shipments, Itbayat had already received from the NDRRMC about 40 metric tons of food and water and 10 metric tons of non-food items transported in various batches via military air and sea assets.