

P606.53-million Bohol port project awarded to Cebu-based firm BNR

THE Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) has awarded the P606.53-million Port of Tapal expansion project to BNR Construction and Development Corp.

In a notice dated May 31, the PPA said that the project has been awarded to the Cebu-based construction company for submitting the lowest bid.

The Port of Tapal, one of the major and busiest ports in the country, is situated in Barangay Tapal, Ubay town in Bohol.

"Pursuant to the provisions of the bid documents, you are hereby instructed to formally enter into a contract with us and to post the required performance security in the form and amount stipulated in the Instructions to Bidders, within 10 days from the receipt of this notice of award," PPA General Manager Jay Daniel R. Santiago said.

The PPA said that if the contractor fails to finalize the con-

tract or furnish the required performance security, it may result in the cancellation of the award.

Ten companies competed in the bidding process for the Tapal Port expansion project, including BNR Construction, Marra Builders, Inc., Octagon Concrete Solutions, Inc., Khan Kon Chi Construction and Development Corp., Sunwest, Inc., WTG Construction & Development Corp., Goldridge Const. & Devt. Corp., MAC Builders Corp., and UKC Builders, Inc.

According to the PPA, BNR Construction was identified as the bidder with the lowest calculated bid for the project, and the company successfully met the technical and financial prerequisites assessed during the evaluation conducted on May 23-24. — **Ashley Erika O. Jose**

Cebu Pacific says it will operate largest turboprop fleet in PHL

BUDGET CARRIER Cebu Pacific, operated by listed Cebu Air, Inc. (CEB), has received its turboprop aircraft, marking its sixth aircraft delivery for the year.

"This aircraft delivery brings our turboprop fleet to 15, and we will be receiving our sixteenth ATR turboprop in October," Cebu Pacific Chief Executive Officer Michael B. Szücs said in a media release on Tuesday.

"With this, CEB will be operating the largest turboprop fleet in the Philippines, enabling us to serve more passengers across the country," he added.

A turboprop is an aircraft powered by a gas turbine engine that drives a propeller, offering high fuel efficiency and reliability for short-haul and regional flights.

For the year, Cebu Pacific is expecting to receive 17 aircraft, which would help boost the company's operations, it said.

The ATR 72-600 arrived at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport on June 5, the budget carrier



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said, adding that this new aircraft will strengthen the company's inter-island travel.

The ATR 72-600 aircraft can carry around 78 passengers. It is said to be used by many airlines as a regional aircraft because it can access short,

narrow, and unpaved runways, Cebu Pacific said.

Cebu Pacific said the ATR 72-600 is one of the latest generations of twin-engine turboprops produced by the Italian aircraft manufacturer Avions de Transport Régional (ATR).

The budget carrier operates a diversified commercial fleet composed of eight Airbus 330s, 39 Airbus 320s, and 21 Airbus 321s.

To date, it flies to 35 domestic and 24 international destinations in Asia, Australia, and the Middle East. — **A.E.O. Jose**

Topline invests P210M in expansion of fuel station network in Cebu

TOP LINE Business Development Corp. (Topline), a property management, franchising, and fuel distribution company, said it has allocated approximately P210 million to finance the construction of its nine fuel stations in Cebu.

"We inaugurated our first service station under the Light Fuels brand just last year, and we are now expanding our footprint in the retail fuel market as we map out our company's growth to meet the increasing demand in Central

Visayas," Topline President and Chief Executive Officer Erik Lim said in a statement.

"The total annual project volume for the [nine] service stations is estimated to be approximately 12 million to 12.5 million liters. By increasing the supply of liquid fuel in the market, we aim to contribute to the region's fuel security, especially in the face of supply risks," Mr. Lim added.



The fuel service stations will be operated by its subsidiary, Light Fuels Corp., and are scheduled to commence operations within the year.

Topline Logistics and Development Corp., another subsidiary of Topline, will supply and distribute liquid fuel to Light Fuel stations as part of Topline's synergy strat-

egy through vertical integration to optimize costs and mitigate supply chain risks.

Topline Logistics aims to engage in the importation, trading, distribution, and marketing of petroleum-based products, while Light Fuels is involved in the fuel retail sector.

Their parent company, based in Cebu, is actively involved in commercial fuel trading, depot operations, and retail fuel in the Visayas region. — **Sheldeen Joy Talavera**

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