

SMC to start Boracay airport terminal soon – DoTr



PHILIPPINE STAR/WALTER BOLLOZOS
SAN MIGUEL Corp. (SMC) is set to break ground on a passenger terminal building at the Godofredo P. Ramos Airport in Caticlan by next month, according to the Department of Transportation (DoTr).

"For Caticlan airport, San Miguel has committed to break ground on a terminal building this June or July," Transportation Secretary Vivencio B. Dizon told reporters last week.

Mr. Dizon said SMC President Ramon S. Ang "committed" to completing the project before 2028, or before the end of the current administration.

Last year, SMC engaged the Saavedra-led Megawide Construction Corp. to design and construct the new terminal.

Megawide secured the contract for the terminal building project at the Boracay airport, which is operated by Trans Aire Development Holdings Corp., a subsidiary of SMC Infrastructure.

In addition to the Caticlan project, SMC, through San Miguel Aerocity, Inc., is developing the P740-billion New Manila International Airport in Bulacan.

The airport development spans 2,500 hectares and aims to establish a world-class aerotropolis capable of accommodating 100 million passengers per year.

— **Sheldeen Joy Talavera**

ERC clears 5 transmission projects

THE Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) has approved five point-to-point transmission facility projects from separate energy companies to enable the connection of their power plants to the grid for electricity export.

In its latest notice, the ERC approved the applications of SMGP Power BESS, Inc. (SMGP), Energy Development Corp. (EDC), Megasol Energy 1, Inc. (ME1), Cornerstone Energy Development, Inc. (CEDI), and Sapang Balen Solar Sustainable Energy Corp. (SBSSEC) for the development of dedicated limited transmission facilities.

The ERC authorized SMGP to develop and own the point-to-point transmission facilities that will connect its 60-megawatt (MW) Lumban Battery Energy Storage Sys-

tem (BESS) to the Luzon grid through a direct link to the 69-kilovolt (kV) Lumban Substation of the National Grid Corp. of the Philippines (NGCP).

EDC was granted approval to build a transmission facility to connect its 5.645-MW Bago Binary Geothermal Power Plant to NGCP's 138-kV Bacolod Substation.

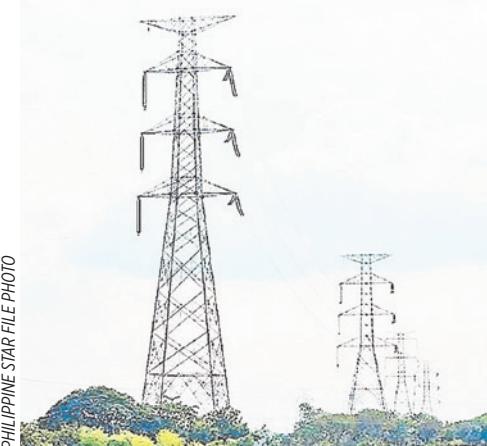
CEDI also secured approval to construct facilities that will connect its 58.5-MW Camarines Sur Wind Power Project to the grid via a tap connection to NGCP's Naga-Libmanan 69-kV transmission line.

The commission allowed ME1 to develop dedicated facilities to connect its 41.244-MW alternating current Gamu Solar Power Plant Project to NGCP's 69-kV Gamu-Roxas Transmission Line.

SBSSEC received authorization to install transmission facilities linking its 463.995-MW Sapang Balen 2 Solar Power Plant (SPP) to the grid via an interim connection to NGCP's Mexico-Concepcion 230-kV Line, and subsequently to the Magalang 230-kV Substation.

While the ERC granted the approvals, it said the projects remain "subject to the conditions presented and the instructions of the Commission during the deliberation."

Chairperson and Chief Executive Officer Monalisa C. Dimalanta was authorized to sign the decisions for and by authority of the Commission, the ERC said. — **Sheldeen Joy Talavera**



PrimeWater cites near-completion of SJDM project amid service concerns

VILLAR-LED PrimeWater Infrastructure Corp. said it is targeting to complete its transmission line extension project in San Jose del Monte (SJDM), Bulacan, in partnership with the San Jose del Monte Water District, by the end of the month.

In a statement over the weekend, PrimeWater said that the Transmission Line Extension Project from Barangay Tungkong Mangga to Barangay Gaya-Gaya Segment 1 is "currently underway."

"We are upgrading both our storage and transmission systems to ensure that we will be able to supply our concessionaires sufficiently. The project is in near completion and we are optimistic that once it is completed, the significant impact will be felt by our subscribers," the company said.

According to PrimeWater, beneficiary areas are expected to receive "16 to 24 hours of water supply service" once the project is completed. The project is estimated to support around 4,000 new service connections.

The joint venture between PrimeWater and the water district has led to an increase in water supply service from 85,223 million liters of water per day (MLD) to 122,356 MLD, the company said.

"The partnership continues to work hard to meet the supply-demand as it continues to increase due to the rapid growth in population and economic growth in the said city," it said.

In April, the Presidential Communications Office (PCO) said President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. would order an investigation into PrimeWater over alleged poor service and high costs.

A month later, the Local Water Utilities Administration launched a formal probe, the PCO said.

The probe covers PrimeWater's 73 joint venture agreements with local water districts nationwide. — **Sheldeen Joy Talavera**

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