

MCIA operator eyes new markets as fuel costs weigh on travel demand

THE OPERATOR of Mactan-Cebu International Airport (MCIA) is working with hotel and tourism stakeholders to roll out coordinated contingency plans and diversify source markets as rising fuel costs threaten to dampen travel demand.

In a statement on Tuesday, Aboitiz InfraCapital Cebu Airport Corp. (ACAC) said it recently convened an industry dialogue with hotel operators and tourism groups to address the potential impact of global oil price pressures linked to the ongoing Middle East crisis.

Participants included bai Hotel, Shangri-La Mactan Cebu, Tambuli Seaside Resort and Spa, Crimson Resort and Spa Mactan, Mercure Mactan Cebu, Savoy Hotel Mactan Newtown, NUSTAR Resort and Casino, Jpark Island Resort and Waterpark Mactan, Sheraton Cebu Mactan Resort, and Waterfront Airport Hotel and Casino, as well as the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry - Lapu-Lapu and the Hotel Resort and Restaurant Association of Cebu, Inc.

During the dialogue, ACAC flagged rising jet fuel prices as a key risk to the aviation sector, noting that higher fuel costs could lead to increased airfares and, in turn, affect passenger traffic and travel demand.

While MCIA recorded strong passenger volumes in the first quarter, the airport operator said demand may begin to soften as early as June if global conditions persist.

"The aviation and tourism sectors are deeply intertwined. When global headwinds like surging jet fuel costs put pressure on our airline partners, our industry inevitably feels the impact," said Athanasios Titonis, chief executive officer of Aboitiz InfraCapital Operating Airports.

He said the company is working closely with industry partners on scenario planning and operational alignment to better manage potential disruptions.

ACAC said it is also exploring opportunities to expand connectivity by tapping new and emerging source markets to support travel demand.

The airport operator added that similar dialogues will be held in other Aboitiz-managed gateways, including Laguindingan International Airport in Misamis Oriental and Bohol-Panglao International Airport in Bohol, to strengthen coordination across key tourism hubs.

MCIA serves as a major gateway to the Visayas and Mindanao and is operated by Aboitiz InfraCapital, the infrastructure arm of the Aboitiz group. — **Juliana Chloe A. Gonzales**

Hotel101 takes next step in \$300-M US share offering

HOTEL101 GLOBAL Holdings Corp. said it has taken the next step in its proposed \$300-million Series A perpetual preferred share offering in the United States.

In a statement on Tuesday, the Nasdaq-listed subsidiary of DoubleDragon Corp. (DD) said the net proceeds of the proposed equity transaction will be used mainly to fund the global expansion of its Hotel101 projects and advance its asset-light, prop-tech hospitality platform.

The company said the fundraising is part of its strategy to accelerate its worldwide expansion and scale its standardized hotel model.

"The DD group continues to tap the capital markets in the Philippines and the United States to further boost its balance sheet towards its goal to increase its total equity base to P500 billion," DoubleDragon said.

DoubleDragon is set to open its highest number of hotel rooms in a single year in 2026, with 2,229 new rooms expected to become operational. These include 680 rooms in Madrid, Spain, which opened in March, followed by 519 rooms in Davao, 548 rooms in Cebu, and 482 rooms in Niseko, Hokkaido, Japan.

The company said its first overseas property, which opened on March 10, has exceeded expectations in both

operations and occupancy. It added that Hotel101 Madrid is expected to achieve above-industry occupancy levels ahead of the Formula 1 Grand Prix in Madrid in September 2026.

"These milestones form a key part of Hotel101 Global's vision to establish and operate 1 million typical Hotel101 rooms across 100 countries," the company said.

Hotel101 Madrid has also been designated as the official hotel partner for the Formula 1 Spanish Grand Prix under a 10-year agreement with Match Hospitality.

DoubleDragon shares went up by 0.65% to close at P9.36 each on Tuesday. — **Alexandria Grace C. Magno**

PAL suspends Manila-Saipan flights until June

FLAG CARRIER Philippine Airlines (PAL) has suspended its flights between Manila and Saipan due to ongoing runway repairs at Saipan International Airport.

In an advisory on Tuesday, PAL said it was suspending all operations to and from Saipan until June 18 after Typhoon Sinlaku damaged the airport's runways.

PAL resumed its Manila-Saipan service on March 29, operating twice weekly every Wednesday and Sunday, with return flights on Mondays and Thursdays.

Saipan, a US territory, is among PAL's destinations in the United States, alongside Los Angeles, San Francisco, New York, Seattle, Guam, Honolulu, and Chicago.

PAL said it is offering rerouting via Guam as an alternative, subject to seat availability. Passengers will shoulder transportation costs between the original and alternative airports.

"We will coordinate closely with the airport authorities to determine when the airport runway repairs will be completed and ready for the safe resumption of commercial flights," PAL said.

The Manila-Saipan route complements PAL's Pacific network, which includes flights to Guam, Honolulu, and services to Palau via Cebu. PAL first launched seasonal Manila-Saipan flights in 2016.

Last week, PAL announced the launch of its nonstop Manila-Chicago flights beginning Nov. 9, its eighth destination in the United States.

For 2025, PAL Holdings, Inc., the airline's operator, reported a 6% increase in net income to \$160 million, supported by higher revenues. The company said revenues rose 3% to \$3.22 billion from \$3.13 billion in 2024.

The flag carrier is planning to expand its international network through the deployment of its A350-1000 aircraft and its ongoing fleet refurbishment program. — **Ashley Erika O. Jose**

Vivant unit acquires Bantayan water distributor

VIVANT CORP. said its unit has acquired 100% of Bantayan Resource Management and Development Corp., a water distribution company serving more than 4,000 households in Bantayan, Cebu.

In a statement on Tuesday, the company said its subsidiary, Vivant Transcore Holdings, Inc., finalized the acquisition of the sole water provider in the municipality.

"This development completes our vision of bringing reliable water solutions where they are needed most," Vivant Water President Jess Garcia said.

"We act with intention, closing the gap in opportunities to access basic necessities especially in areas that are often perceived geographically challenged. More than expanding our footprint, we look out for the communities' needs first," he added.

Vivant Water, officially known as Vivant Infracore Holdings, Inc., oversees the group's water-related investments.

The company said it plans to bring its operational expertise into the water distribution segment, complementing its existing investments across the water value chain.

It is also preparing to operate a utility-scale seawater desalination plant with a capacity of 20 million liters per day, as well as wastewater management facilities in Palawan.



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Vivant said its expansion into water distribution in Bantayan reflects a broader infrastructure strategy, noting that it is also the sole electricity provider on the island through Isla Norte Power Corp.

"With the addition of water distribution, Vivant now completes the utility circle in Bantayan — integrating reliable energy and clean water to support households, businesses, and the island's continued growth," the company said. — **Sheldeen Joy Talavera**

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