

Billions of pesos worth of projects at the Zamboanga International Airport and the Zamboanga seaport were inspected last Friday by officials of the national government.

Upon invitation of House of Representatives Committee on Public Works & Highways Chairman and Congressman Celso L. Lobregat, high ranking officials of the Department of Transportation (DOTr), Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP), Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) GM Jay Daniel Santiago and the House of Representatives Committee on Transportation inspected the Zamboanga International Airport (ZIA) projects and the PPA projects in the port of Zamboanga.

CAAP Director Raul G. Glorioso, DOTr Jun Sore and Ed Relucio, COS of Congressman Cesar Sarmiento, Chairman of the HOR Committee on Transportation inspected the ongoing DOTr's Zamboanga International Airport expansion worth Php 41.6 million and CAAP's asphalt overlay project of the ZIA runway worth Php 38.9 million.

DOTr's project for the completion of the asphalt overlay for existing runway, taxi way and taxi way shoulder worth Php 160 million has been bid out and the aviation officials revealed that the two old conveyors will be replaced and additional trollies will be given to ZIA. There is also a Php 221 million budget for 2018 for ZIA.

The aviation officials also gave an update on the ongoing feasibility study for the transfer of the Zamboanga International Airport.

PPA's GM Jay Daniel Santiago and Assistant GM for Finance and Administration Elmer Nonnatus Cadano also met with Congressman Lobregat, COS Ed Relucio, Zamboanga PPA Port Manager Engr. Liberto Dela Rosa and PPA officials and employees. During the briefing conducted at the new Traveler's Hub in the PPA premises, the port officials reported on the status of the port's ongoing projects: CY 2016 Construction of Wharf for Rail Mounted Gantry (RMG) Crane worth Php 480 million which is 78.7% complete and the CY 2017 Zamboanga Port Expansion Project worth Php 227.3 million.

The port officials also revealed the CY 2018-2019 proposed Widening of T-head Pier (178m x

12m) with RoRo Ramp (9m x 11m) Completed with Solar Lighting & Water Facilities worth Php 256 million, T-Head Pier Extension (70m x 30m) with Lightings & water Facilities, Port of Zamboanga worth Php 252 million, Reclamation of Paniran Area (30m x 64m) worth Php 153 million among others.

The ongoing and proposed projects for Zamboanga PPA Port for CYs 2016 to 2019 is worth over Php 1.368 billion.

his is the first time in more than 15 years that the General Manager of the PPA visited the Port of Zamboanga. PPA GM Jay Daniel Santiago thanked Congressman Lobregat for the invitation.

After the meeting, briefing and inspection of port facilities, Congressman Lobregat invited the guests and officials to Sta. Cruz Island.(Dexter Yap)