

SMC's ₱740-B airport project secures Bulakeños' support

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Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, March 15) — The ₱740-billion Bulacan airport project of San Miguel Corp. received a solid backing from local government officials and residents.

During a public hearing conducted by the Environment Management Bureau of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Bulakan Mayor Vergel Meneses said he hopes construction works on the massive gateway will soon be at full throttle.

"Ang proyekto po ay sinusuportahan ko, ng Sangguniang Bayan at Bayan ng Bulakan. Amin pong ninanais na masimulan na ang proyekto sa lalong madaling panahon, dahil batid naming ang maraming oportunidad na bubuksan nito sa aming bayan," Meneses was quoted as saying in a statement on Monday.

[Translation: The project is supported by me, by the Sangguniang Bayan and Bulakan Municipality. We want the project to start as soon as possible, because we know the many opportunities that it will open up in our town.]

In January, SMC President and Chief Operating Officer Ramon Ang said initial works have started for the construction of the massive New Manila International Airport or NMIA.

The Bulacan airport is envisioned to decongest the country's main gateway Ninoy Aquino International Airport, as this is designed to accommodate up to 100 million flyers annually. The NMIA will be constructed with four runways, eight taxiways, and three passenger terminals.

The opening of the multibillion-peso air hub is being eyed by 2025.

READ: SMC: ₱740-B Bulacan airport up and running by 2025

Once operational, Bulacan Governor Daniel Fernando said the province is "poised to become a global destination for tourism."

The Bulacan town council issued a formal decision to support the undertaking in October last year. Meneses said the LGU took into careful consideration the economic development, job opportunities, and new businesses that the airport project will bring.



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SMC has been providing livelihood and training projects to the residents of Taliptip and Bambang, including mangrove planting and mangrove crab production, fish and meat processing, and entrepreneurship.

Just last January, SMC launched a community reseller program as part of its livelihood support for former Taliptip residents, where they could sell Purefoods and Magnolia products.


READ: SMC launches community reseller program for former Taliptip residents

SMC also teamed up with the Technical Education Skills Development Authority to provide complete training in different courses for 58 former Taliptip coastal residents.

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Even before the group could start its construction, residents of Taliptip were already relocated to new and safer homes.

READ: Settlers in future Bulacan airport site relocate to new, safer houses

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