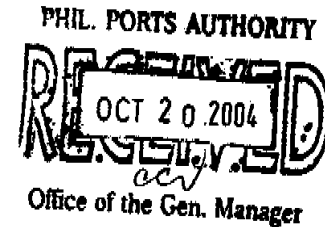


## CONSUMER COMPLAINTS CENTER, INC.

15-A LPL Center, 130 L. P. Leviste St., Salcedo Village, Makati City  
Phone no. (632) 813-3459, Fax (632) 812-7997

18 October 2004

Atty. Oscar M. Sevilla  
General Manager  
Philippine Ports Authority  
Marsman Building  
South Harbor, Manila



Subject: **Construction of Temporary Road at the  
Batangas Port Project, Phase II**

Dear Atty. Sevilla,

Attached is a news clipping dated 17 August 2003 that we feel was issued by the Office of the General Manager in reaction to observations regarding an access road (see attached map) at the Batangas Port Project.

Contrary to information we have gathered and as shown by the present progress at the job site, the explanations found in the attached news clipping as well as other formal statements attributed to Mr. Medardo Melicor and Mr. Efren Bollozos are turning out to be false. Clearly, the false information was issued to cover up on the alleged profligate expenditure incurred for the project.

At the time the project was approved, you were then the Administrator of the MARINA and also a member of the PPA Board and the Excom. It is possible that you disapproved of or missed the illogical proposal of constructing a temporary road with the specifications of a well-built permanent road, which would be obliterated upon the commencement of the Batangas Port Project, Phase II.

In this connection and with your recent appointment as the PPA General Manager, may we request that your Office look into this matter more closely in order to identify the person or persons responsible for the waste in government resources resulting from the approval to build the temporary road? Surely someone has to take the responsibility for this nefarious project.

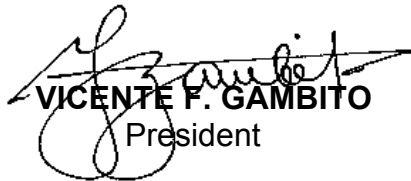
Additionally, we have observed that prolonging the usage of the road could hamper construction work on the project and furthermore could lead to additional expenses by the contractor. Please study alternative actions to reduce the possibility of cost overruns resulting from the continued use of the temporary road.

Trusting that you find our request reasonable and in the interest of transparency and good order. We shall appreciate receiving your reply soon but not later than the period provided under RA 6713.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

**CONSUMER COMPLAINTS CENTER, INC.**



**VICENTE F. GAMBITO**  
President

Copies furnished to:

Ombudsman Simeon Marcelo, Office of the Ombudsman  
Commissioner Constanca P. de Guzman, Presidential Anti-Graft Commission  
Secretary Leandro Mendoza, Department of Transportation and Communications  
Mr. Federico D. Pascual, Jr., Columnist, Philippine Star

## PPA clarifies Pascual column

By **ROBERTO B. UY**  
Head Executive Assistant  
Philippine Ports Authority

Allow us to clarify, correct and disprove the article written by Mr. Federico Pascual Jr., in his column *Postscript* dated 14 August 2003.

The 1.9 kilometer (not 3kms. as indicated in the column) Batangas Access Road will not be demolished soon nor affected by the on-going port expansion and development works.

Mr. Pascual presumably based his piece from an information on a website of a maritime industry personality with questionable intentions, known for his half-truth revelations and malicious imputations against offi-

cial of the PPA.

Our assistant general manager for engineering Medardo Melicor will attest that contrary to the columnist's feature, the Batangas Access Road will not be demolished nor affected by the ongoing works of a private contractor presently undertaking port expansion works. Further, the F.F. Cruz-Shimizu port expansion project will not encroach into any portion of the existing Batangas Access Road. The road will not be demolished.

The Batangas Access Road which is a four-lane concrete stretch is not only an alternate access

but the main thoroughfare taken by trucks and passenger buses to the Port of Batangas bypassing the city proper. The road which used to be only a two-lane gravel based access would be regularly pockmarked by huge craters and potholes especially during the rainy season. The clamor of end-users and the local government prompted PPA to take immediate steps to improve the road.

The original plan was to construct a four-lane 20 cm. thick concrete road. This project was bid out and awarded during the previous ad-

ministration. However, the road was meant to be used by big trucks with heavy cargo.

To date, the access road has not only benefited the people of Batangas but also the travelers and shippers of faraway Mindanao islands, using the Strong Republic Nautical Highway.

The PPA, under the leadership of General Manager Alfonso Cusi, has continuously been under similar attacks since it implemented reforms to ensure that all biddings the agency undertakes are above board and conducted in ways consistent with existing rules and regulations for public biddings.

