

**PRESS RELEASE
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DOTr, I-ACT highlight pandemic operations in 3rd Weekly Forum at PITX

The Southern Metro Manila Press Club Inc. (SMMPCI) hosted another Weekly Forum at the Parañaque Integrated Terminal Exchange (PITX) earlier today, 29 May 2021, with guest speakers I-ACT Task Force Chief Manny Gonzales, who concurrently serves as DOTr Assistant Secretary for Special Concerns, and LTO Las Pinas Chief Joselito “Bogs” Luarca. The forum discussed traffic law enforcement activities amidst the pandemic, in celebration of the National Road Safety Month this May.

I-ACT Task Force Chief Manny Gonzales started his talk with a video presentation on I-ACT’s round-the-clock operations in Metro Manila, Metro Cebu, Metro Davao, Metro Baguio, and Regions 1, 3, and 5. These include addressing COVID-19 smuggling, wherein colorum vehicles transport untested passengers across different quarantine zones, and assisting in the EDSA Carousel System and the Free Ride Program for Healthworkers, as well as the Hatid Tulong Program that sends locally-stranded individuals home to their respective provinces. He also highlighted the Anti-Colorum Operations, Task Force PITX, and their strict enforcement of the Seven Commandments for Public Transport against COVID-19.

“The fight against COVID-19 is a collective feat, and only through our collective efforts can we heal as one,” said Chief Gonzales.

PITX Corporate Affairs and Government Relations Head Jason Salvador expressed his appreciation of I-ACT’s unwavering efforts in maintaining law and order on the road. “Gusto po naming magbigay ng matinding saludo sa I-ACT at sa mga kaibigan nating sumusuong sa init, sa ulan, sa usok, at sa panganib ng COVID-19 para tulungan tayo at maiayos ang ating transportasyon.”

In relation to the Anti-Colorum Operations, Mr. Salvador said that PITX and the Department of Transportation are working together to set up an impounding area on a portion of PITX’s land.

Meanwhile, LTO Las Pinas Chief Joselito “Bogs” Luarca talked about the random drug testing and road worthiness inspection conducted at PITX last Thursday, where two drivers tested positive and were stripped of their license on the spot. He also mentioned about the ongoing Anti-Overloading program with the Department of Public Works and Highways.

To aid in law enforcement activities in Metro Manila, PITX turned over a mobile command center vehicle to I-ACT that can be turned into a special communication van wherever deployed. “Malaking bagay po ito. Malaki po ang maitutulong nito sa operations, sa capacity ng I-ACT to enforce,” said Chief Gonzales.

About the Parañaque Integrated Terminal Exchange

The Parañaque Integrated Terminal Exchange (PITX) is the country’s first landport, and the first ever integrated and multimodal transport hub in the Philippines. It aims to improve the overall commuting experience of Filipinos by providing seamless interconnectivity between different modes of public transportation. PITX is operated by MWM Terminals, Inc. under a 35-year Build-Transfer-Operate contract.

