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ON SCTEX AND DRIVING IN THE RAIN

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On SCTEX and Driving in the Rain

Not to be caught flat-footed on account of its pro-active policy, the state-run Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA) greeted the rainy season fully prepared for any eventuality at its flagship project Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway (SCTEX).

"The preemptive moves which included pavement enhancement works and clearing of the drainage systems have been undertaken weeks before the onset of the rains," said SCTEX spokesman and BCDA program manager for operational support services BGen. Robert Gervacio (Ret).

Even as the country was still sweltering under the dry spell of



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the El Niño weather phenomenon, the BCDA has already instructed the SCTEX service provider Tollways Management Corporation (TMC) to gear up for La Nina.

"The SCTEX is definitely one of the safest tollways in the Philippines and the BCDA is fully committed to keep it that way," Gervacio said. "But we also urge our motorists to do their part by strictly following the speed limits within the tollway which is 100 kph and driving defensively and safely all the time."

TMC division chief for the SCTEX Charly Española said the slopes of Jalung Cut in Porac, Pampanga, one of the most scenic spots of the 93.7-kilometer tollway, was also strengthened to ward off soil erosion that could pose risks to motorists.

"We have optimized our public safety measures, including

placement of all emergency assistance and rescue teams on alert mode particularly during heavy downpour and typhoons," Española said.

Both Gervacio and Española underscored however, the significance of motorists strictly observing precautions when driving under adverse conditions.

The two officials said motorists should take extra precautions when driving through the rains which drastically reduce visibility on the road.

"We can never underestimate the importance of having our windshield wipers and headlights in good working condition before setting off on a journey with unpredictable weather," Gervacio stressed.

"If visibility turns also nil, it would be wise to gradually slow down preparatory to parking on the

shoulder while waiting for the atmosphere to clear up," he added.

While parked, the hazard lamps should be switched on as a warning sign to other motorists.

The SCTEX officials also reminded the motorists to double their distance from other vehicles when driving on wet pavement which significantly reduces tire grip or traction.

Here are other friendly reminders from the SCTEX.:

- Keep enough distance from the vehicles in front and behind you. This will increase their ability to see and plan ahead of time.
- If the steering wheel becomes unresponsive, it probably means that the water is preventing the tires from gripping the road. Ease off the accelerator and slow down gradually.

WHERE HEAVEN AND EARTH MEET

Thunderbird Resorts, Poro Point, La Union

Dramatically situated in the North of Manila rests a rapture of nature's beauty where the sea and sky meets – The Thunderbird Resorts Poro Point is a Santorini-inspired tourism haven nestling along a scenic cliff, overlooking the South China Sea in San Fernando, La Union. A five-star hotel accommodation in La Union–Thunderbird Resorts Poro Point boasts of facilities and services that guarantee total customer satisfaction.

Located inside the former Wallace airbase, now Poro Point Freeport Zone, the 65-hectare resort is equipped with 36 rooms, bar and restaurants, Olympic-size infinity pool, golf course, entertainment and sports facilities, an amphitheater and of course, the white sandy beach—making Thunderbird Resorts an ultimate getaway destination.

The resort's Mediterranean architectural design creates an out-of-the-country experience you will never forget. Welcome drinks are served as soon as you arrive at the lobby where you can lounge and gaze at the emblematic work of art in the dome ceiling. A few steps from the reception area is the Olives Restaurant where you can have a taste of their "Pizza Ilokano," a local-inspired pizza made of tomatoes, mozzarella, cheddar cheese, Vigan longganisa, tocino, tuna, and onions. Across the Olives is the Patio Santorini and Cabana bar, where guests can unwind while sipping a glass of cocktail or wine.

The spacious rooms are geared with mini-bar, Ipod docking station with speakers, in-room electronic safety box, pantry with coffee and tea-making facilities, cable television, Jacuzzi-style bath (for Deluxe VO rooms), and furnished living room, kitchenette & dining area (for Deluxe Suite room). In addition, a dazzling panorama of the South China Sea can be seen on the balcony of each room. Free wi-fi access is available in most part of the resort.

Need to cool down? A dip in the Santorini swimming pool quenches the heat while enjoying a full view of the seashore and the captivating landscapes of the Boardwalk. Don't know how to swim? Worry not because this world-class infinity pool has a depth of 4-feet, allowing you to move around and relish the whole pool area. A pool bar is also available to satisfy your hungry appetite after swimming. For beach lovers, the white sand beach of Thunderbird Resorts is perfect for you. Fall in love with the sunset or just enjoy the waves of the sea along the shoreline—these will definitely relax any tired body.

The resort offers the best 24-hour gaming and entertainment facilities at the Fiesta Casino. Guests can have fun using the slot machines and table games or dine at the Vegas Café while listening to the local band performing live every night. Promotions, raffle prizes and cash give aways are also held in the casino.

Golfers will love The Cliffs, an all-weather nine-hole golf course designed according to the standard of the US Golf Association. The company intends to add nine more holes to The Cliffs Golf and Beach Club to provide golf enthusiasts more playing satisfaction.

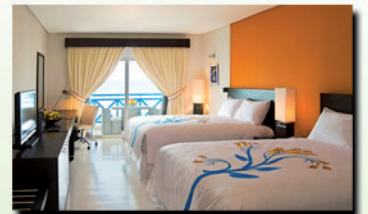
The Thunderbird Resorts Poro Point is a six-hour drive from Manila via the North Luzon Expressway (NLEX) and the Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway (SCTEX). Tourists may also book a flight online going to San Fernando Airport via Zest Airways. Regular flights from Manila to San Fernando and back is scheduled every Monday, Wednesday and Fridays—departing from Manila at 1:30 p.m., and arriving at San Fernando, La Union at 2:50 p.m., and departing from San Fernando at 3:20 p.m. and arriving Manila at 4:40 p.m.

For details on accommodation and ongoing promos visit <http://www.thunderbird-asia.com/thunderbird-resort-poro.htm>. or call (02) 886-5555 (Manila Office) / (072) 888-7777 (Poro Point Office).

Thunderbird Resort's Must See:



Take a dip in the enticing olympic-size infinity pool that gives you the perfect view of the South China Sea.



The spacious rooms give guests more comfort during their entire stay. A veranda provides an over-looking view of the pool area and entire shore strip.



Be mesmerized at the beautiful sunset along the resort's white sand beach.



Lounge and unwind at the Patio Santorini and Cabana bar.



Enjoy "The Cliffs" which offers a par 36, nine-hole golf course. Perfect for golf enthusiasts.

SCTEX Commendations

From: Mrs. Pagador
Date: 1 July 2010

"This is to commend patrol team PC Carlos Castro and SG Christian Villonco for their honesty, integrity and loyalty to their job. Keep up the good work. God bless us all."

From: Jerome Antonio Constantino and family
Date: 9 July 2010

"We would like to commend PC Enrico Santos, PC Warren Celestino and SG Judy Obrero for their assistance. Our tire blew in the middle of the road and they came to help us. We're very grateful for what they did and may God bless them."

From: Rolando Anatalio
Date: 21 July 2010

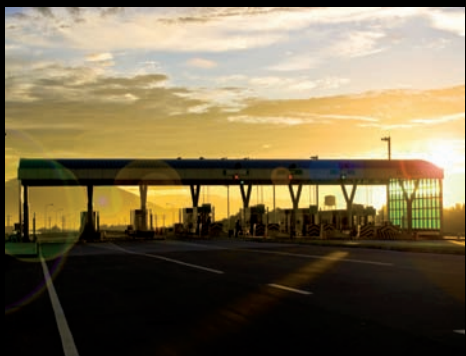
"On 11 July 2010, we received exceptional assistance from PC Christian Terceño, PC Emmanuel Castañeda, PC Glen Ocampo, PC Jing Figueroa, and SG Rizaldy Mata. We were traveling north on SCTEX when our tire exploded. These gentlemen were extremely professional and gave 110% effort to help us. We just want to extend all our gratitude and inform the management on how exceptional they are. As balik-bayans we were surprised to find that there are still honest and hard-working people willing to help and not to accept any payments or gifts from us in return for their services. We just wanted to say thank you again to those gentlemen who helped us. Keep up the good work! ."

From: Unknown
Date: 3 July 2010

"I very much appreciate the kind assistance given by PC Emmanuel Tiglao, PC Onofre Punzalan, PC Julius Valloyas, SG Alexander Pabayos when I had to fix a flat tire. They helped without expecting anything in return. Keep up the good work and continue to be of service to your fellow kababayan."

Scenes from an Expressway

by: Garry Cativo
BCDA Public Information Officer



On SCTEX...

from page 2

- The rain and spray from vehicles may make it difficult to see and be seen. Be extra cautious and make sure that your wipers are functioning.

Designed to conform with global safety standards, the SCTEX handles an average daily traffic of some 30,000 vehicles.

The tollway also has an ample supply of reflectorized traffic cones, road signs, plastic jersey barriers, and lane closure signs. Through these portable equipment, cat's eyes and reflectorized road signs, motorists are able to avoid hazards, even at night, and are protected from on-going retrieval operations whenever there are incidents on the expressway. Complementing these safety features is the strict implementation of Republic Act No. 8750, the Seatbelt Use Act of 1999.

For the safety and convenience of motorists, security teams are strategically deployed along the tollway to ensure that help is just 20 minutes away at any point along the SCTEX. Motorists needing roadside assistance can call the following SCTEX hotlines (0920) 96-SCTEX (72839), (045) 865-2030, (02) 362-9997 and (02) 362-2246.

The BCDA awarded recently to the Manila North Tollways Corporation (MNTC) the right to enter into a contract to lease, manage, operate and maintain the SCTEX which interconnects Central Luzon's three major economic zones – the Clark Freeport Zone, the Subic Bay Freeport Zone and the Central Techno Park in Tarlac.