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# BIYAHENG SCTEX

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# SCTEX intensifies campaign against speeding

SUBIC-CLARK-TARLAC EXPRESSWAY  
PAN COOPERATION PROJECT (2008)

WIDE

**T**he Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway (SCTEX) is not for motorists driving over the speed limit of 100 kilometers per hour (kph) as they will surely be apprehended.

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# SCTEX intensifies campaign against speeding

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This is the unmistakable message of a continuing campaign being waged by SCTEX authorities, particularly mobile patrol crews of the Tollways Management Corp. (TMC), service provider of the 94-kilometer tollway.

Since the SCTEX began full commercial operations in mid-2008, a total of 12,605 drivers have been apprehended, most of whom were issued citation tickets for violating set speed limits—a minimum of 60 kph and a maximum of 100 kph.

The state-owned Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA), owner and builder of the SCTEX, continues to intensify its anti-speeding drive



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Motorists enjoy comfortable and hassle-free travel via SCTEX.

in keeping with its commitment to provide safe, hassle-free and comfortable travel along the tollway that connects Subic Freeport Zone to the Central Techno Park in Tarlac City via the Clark Freeport Zone in Mabalacat, Pampanga.

SCTEX records showed that from a low of 2,872 apprehensions in 2008, the figure went up to 4,231 in 2009,

representing a hefty 47-percent increase.

For the current year, 5,502 erring drivers were interdicted by the SCTEX patrols for a 30-percent apprehension performance improvement.

“Open highways have always been a magnet for speedsters who have little or no

regard for their own safety,” said SCTEX spokesman and program manager Robert Gervacio. “But they won’t go far inside the SCTEX because our traffic enforcers are on the job 24/7,” Gervacio stressed.

Gervacio noted that the quality of construction of the SCTEX, praised by many for its well-paved and smooth roads, bridges and trumpet-style interchanges, is at par with world-class expressways found in other countries.

He added that the smooth pavement of the SCTEX has somehow led motorists to think that they are driving slow despite going beyond the 100 kph speed limit.

Gervacio advised motorists to always check their speedometer to ensure driving within the speed limit. “By driving within the speed limit, you are not only ensuring the safety of your passengers but also the passengers of the other vehicles as well,” he noted.

## SCTEX files toll rate hike

The state-owned Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA), owner and builder of the Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway (SCTEX), has filed a petition for a toll rate adjustment before the Toll Regulatory Board (TRB), its first since the SCTEX opened for commercial operations in 2008 at an introductory rate of Php2.00 per kilometer for Class 1 vehicles.

SCTEX spokesperson and program manager for operational support services Robert Gervacio said the proposed toll rate adjustment would fund the repayment of the principal and interest of the loan granted by the Government of Japan through the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) that will start in 2011. The JBIC loan mainly bankrolled the construction of the SCTEX.

Mr. Gervacio said that while the TRB granted BCDA an authorized toll rate of Php2.49 per kilometer for Class 1 vehicles, BCDA has implemented an effective toll rate of only Php2.00 per kilometer.

He added that since the SCTEX started partial commercial operations on April 28, 2008, motorists plying the SCTEX have been enjoying a savings of 0.49 centavos per kilometer.

The Toll Operation Agreement (TOA) provides for a toll rate adjustment based on a parametric formula that takes into consideration the following elements: debt service, Php-Jpy BSP reference rate, operations and maintenance cost, annual growth rate per financial projections, actual annual traffic volume and length of expressway, authorized toll rates per vehicle class, JICA interest, and Department of Finance (DOF) Guarantee fee.

According to Mr. Gervacio, the proposed toll fee filed before the TRB is Php2.87 per kilometer for Class 1 vehicles. “The increase is a fair amount that will allow us to fulfill and sustain our obligations to both our creditors and motorists.” However, the toll rate adjustment is still not final pending TRB review and approval.

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# Parkson Duty Free Shop: The spot for shopping

by: Michelle S. San Juan

**C**ouldn't find the perfect gift for your loved ones this Christmas? Why not try Parkson Duty Free Shop inside Clark Freeport Zone in Pampanga where you can find a wide array of great finds that can suit any occasion of the year.

Clark Freeport Zone is not only known as one of the fastest growing economic zones in the country, but also, a home for various duty free shops. From candies, toys, bags and apparels to home appliances and furnitures, these duty free shops have a lot to offer shoppers with a "sexy" budget.

## WHAT TO FIND:



1.) Unique furnitures and decorations that will definitely enhance your home's feisty atmosphere. 2.) Variety of bags perfect for travel and everyday use at an affordable price. 3.) Various items on sale can be used as gifts for any occasion. 4.) Stuffed toys and other kiddie items for your little ones. 5.) Shoppers with sweet-tooth will enjoy chocolates and candies at a much cheaper price. 6.) Colorful Christmas decors perfect for the holiday season. 7.) Give your home a touch of femininity with these classy statuette.

# OTHER DUTY FREE SHOPS IN CLARK:

## Arjan Duty Free

Bldg. 5276 Claro M. Recto Highway  
Clark Freeport and Special Economic Zone  
Pampanga  
Telephone Numbes: (045) 599-2593; 599-2596  
Operating Hours: 10am-7pm



## Watch out!



**NEW ARRIVALS.** Sign like this are installed outside the Parkson Duty Free to keep shoppers updated whenever new items are on sale.

## SCTEX files...

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At the same time, BCDA gave assurance that the increase would enable the BCDA to sustain the high level of service efficiency at the SCTEX. Motorists using the country's most modern toll road enjoy the following benefits: savings on time and fuel, less vehicle wear and tear, less spoilage for produce, and stress-free and safe driving. "The increased toll fee will be worth every centavo," Mr. Gervacio added. The SCTEX is a brand new expressway designed to facilitate the speedy transfer of people, goods and services in the region.

When approved, the proposed new toll rate matrix will be implemented starting January 1, 2011. "We believe that our petition is justifiable, but we will abide by the decision of the TRB," Mr. Gervacio said.

Mr. Gervacio said that by July 25, 2008 when the entire 93.7-kilometer stretch of SCTEX was opened for commercial operations, the toll fee was still pegged at P2.00 per kilometer instead of the supposed Php2.49 per kilometer which was the projected toll rate that will pay for the JBIC loan.

Since then, additional works have been implemented through the construction of three additional Interchanges (Clark South, Porac and Floridablanca) and the Panday Pira Access Road. The Panday Pira Road, which is the access road to and from Clark via the Clark North Interchange, was completed on 23 December 2008. The Clark South Interchange was completed on 4 April 2009. The Porac and Floridablanca Interchanges were completed on 31 July 2009.

"In short, the additional works were not included in the current effective toll rate of Php2.00 per kilometer. We need to increase to generate funds for the loan requirement and sustain the operations and maintenance of the SCTEX," Mr. Gervacio said.

## Oriental Duty Free

Bldg. 7272, Claro M. Recto Highway  
Clark Freeport and Special Economic Zone  
Pampanga  
Telephone Numbes: (045) 599-2114; 599-2115  
Operating Hours: 10am-7pm

