

clark

IT WORKS.
LIKE A DREAM.

International Departures ↑

Departures

Domestic

BCDA
Bases Conversion and
Development Authority



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Clark: It works. Like a dream.
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LIVE

PLAY

WORK

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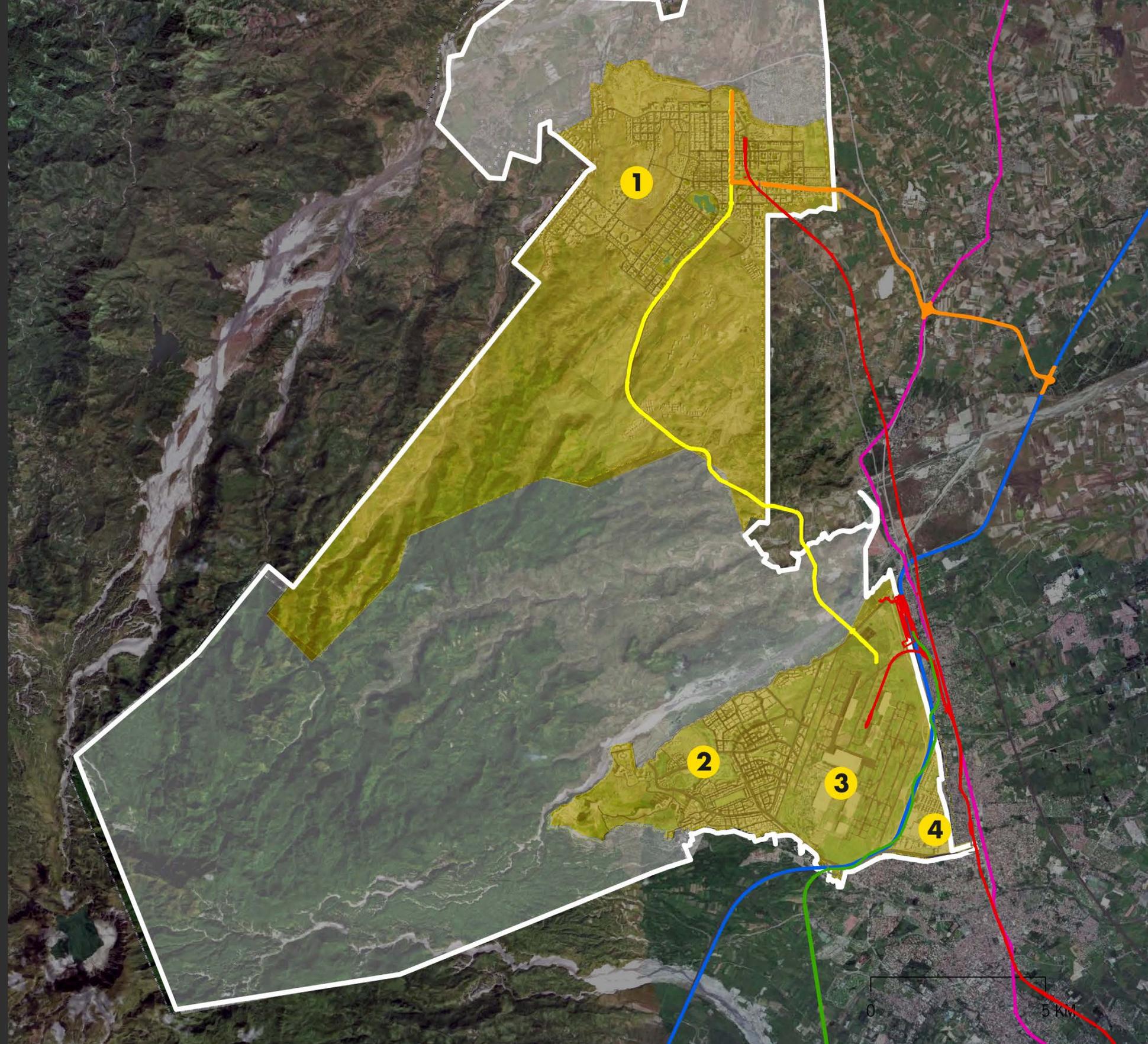
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- New Clark City-Airport Access Road
- SCTEx and MacArthur Highway
- New Clark City-SCTEx Access Road
- Subic-Clark Railway Project
- Malolos-Clark Railway Project



A Feast

for the

Senses

WORDS RHEA CLAIRE MADARANG PHOTOGRAPHY BORJ MENESES



Pampanga delights every visitor in many different ways.

↑ KAPAMPANGAN KARE-KARE

The Kapampangans are cooking it the right way: no shortcuts, and expertly prepared with care.

KAPAMPANGANS ARE KNOWN FOR THEIR COOKING. They use fresh ingredients and cook everything from scratch, taking no shortcuts in the kitchen. “Kapampangans work hard to bring out the linamnam (flavor) of the food,” says Carlos “Poch” Jorolan, who runs Everybody’s Café, a restaurant started by his grandparents after World War II. The name was coined because it was literally where “everybody” ate—the Filipinos, Japanese, and Americans. Their main branch is located in San Fernando but they also have a branch in Angeles and even in Manila.

Jorolan recommends starting with Pampanga’s garlicky sweet longganisa (sausage) and sweet tocino (cured pork). And then, try the Anthony Bourdain-approved modern sisig (a sizzling dish of chopped parts of a pig’s head, usually seasoned with onion, salt, pepper, and

calamansi, a citrus fruit similar to lemon), morcon (Everybody’s Café’s version is made of ground pork, Spanish chorizo, queso de bola, and duck eggs), and kare-kare (the Kapampangan version is usually made of beef in a thick peanut sauce). Jorolan also recommends kakanin (rice-based delicacies), desserts like tibok-tibok (carabao milk pudding), and sweets made with duman, a rare, fragrant rice usually available only in November or December. If you are feeling adventurous, you can also try the camaro (crickets from farms) and betute (frogs) dishes. At Everybody’s Café, they take out the legs and wings of the camaro to make chewing easier.

Binulo, a restaurant established in 2011, serves specialty dishes made by cooking lobsters, chicken, and rice in bamboo. “Binulo” is a cooking method practiced by the Aetas, an indigenous tribe living in





CLARK
IT WORKS. LIKE A DREAM.

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IT WORKS. LIKE A DREAM.

WE WIN AS ONE

WORDS KARL DE MESA

THE NEW NATIONAL SPORTS COMPLEX IN CLARK includes the Aquatics Center, the 20,000-seater Athletics Stadium, and an Athletes' Village—rising in the middle of Tarlac as a sprawling Sports City in the brilliantly master planned New Clark City.

The Athletics Stadium and the Aquatics Center are completely finished. Building the sports establishment involved working at a frantic pace to meet the SEA Games deadline, with 6,500 workers doing 24/7 shifts. It's a gargantuan undertaking motivated by the purest of ambitions: to win a sporting gold for the Philippines.

Arrey Perez, BCDA's Vice President for Business Development and one of the Deputy Director Generals of the Philippines SEA Games Organizing Committee, believes that having the sports complex is a game changer for the country, not only because we hosted the games but also for giving Filipino athletes a true competitive edge.

"When I go to other countries I am always jealous of their sports centers and stadiums," shares Perez. "Why can't we do this at home? Our athletes have always been complaining—as they should—about the lack of facilities for proper training. They simply must have a place where they can train and that they can call home. Mahirap kung palagi na lang nakikihiram. (It's hard if they just keep on borrowing.) Now is the

time to remedy all of that!"

Architect Royal Pineda, principal architect of Budji+Royal, echoes this same sentiment in his designs. "For you to win, you need the spirit for the country, not for yourself. We did this in the same spirit as our athletes, and so it's a big honor for us to be able to execute such a project for the country," says Pineda, whose vision was inspired by a naturalist philosophy on architecture, that which reflects the spirit of the Modern Filipino.

"We were able to deliver edifices and structures so truthful for we stripped them to the point that they are bare of pretense," he continues. "It's not just aesthetically beautiful, it was something required by the location, the function and needs of the facility. With it, I can look any architect in the eye and say 'Hey, this is Modern Filipino architecture.'"

VP Perez looks back and smiles with confidence not only because BCDA was able to meet the deadline, but also because it did so with quality and safety.

"I want our athletes to be as competitive as they can be," declares Perez. "Continue training hard and focus on just delivering the gold for the country and the government will take care of your needs."

- 1 **NORTHERN LIGHTS**
The traditional art of making parols will never die in Pampanga.
- 2 **DUKIT**
Few Kapampangan sculptors are preserving the exquisite tradition of woodcarving.
- 3 **INDUSTRIA**
Sample modern piece from Jude Tiotico's Industria Design.

the province. The restaurant also serves tsokolate batiro (traditional hot chocolate) with duman.

PAMPANGA IS ALSO AN IDEAL DESTINATION FOR HERITAGE TOURS as it has its fair share of historical churches and structures, and impressive folk art. Declared a National Cultural Treasure by the Philippine government, the Betis Church (St. James the Apostle Parish Church) in Guagua is a 17th-century Baroque church known for its elaborate ceiling murals, which led to its popularity as the "Sistine Chapel of the Philippines."

The church is even more special and interesting because the Betis Museum—which showcases antiques, art, and intricate wood-carved pieces—can be found in the church itself. Betis is known for dukit (woodcarving), one of Pampanga's oldest folk art. The province even has an annual Dukit Festival, with woodcarvers competing against each other and locals dancing in dukit-inspired costumes.

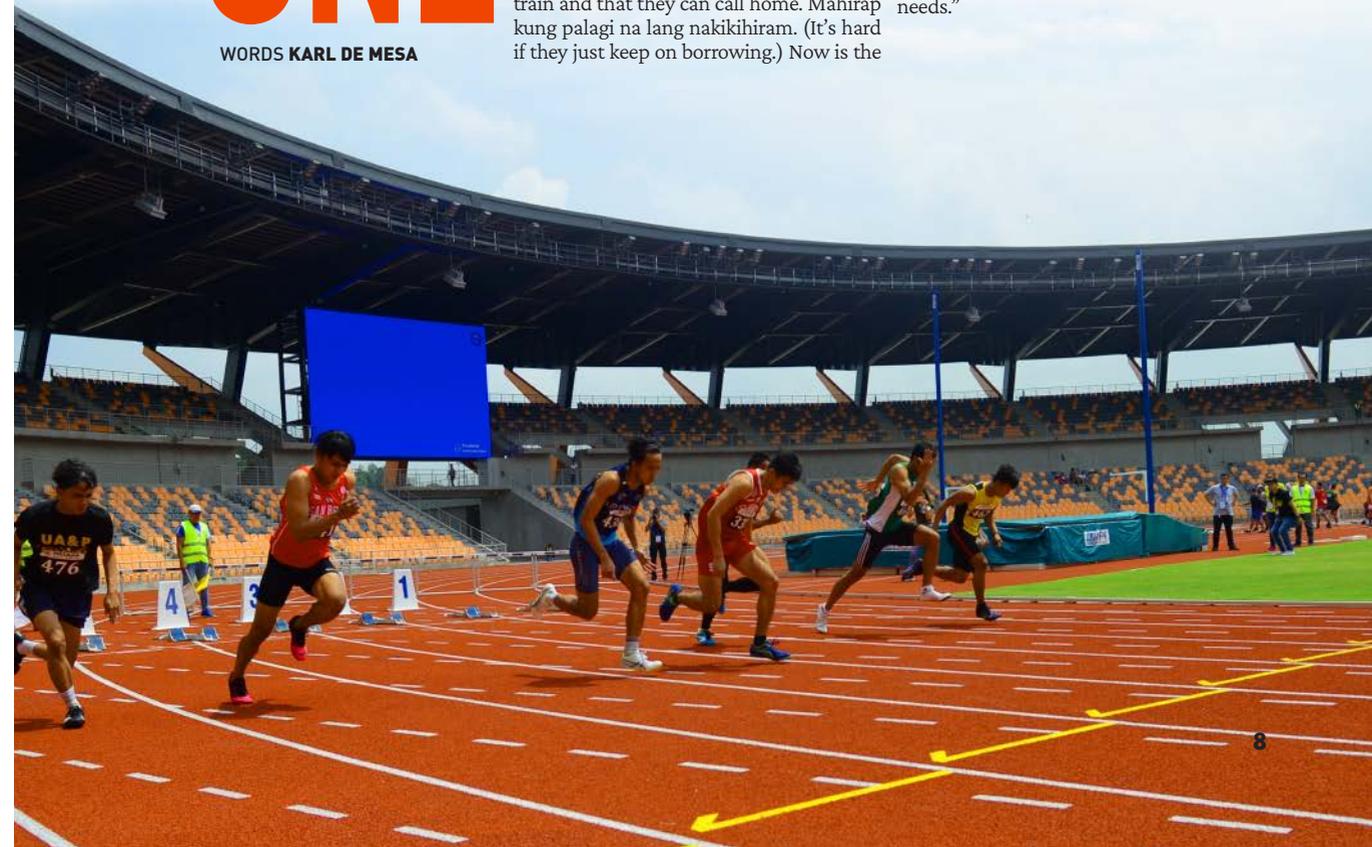
Kapampangan art historian and visual ethnographer Ruston Banal, who comes from a family of mandukits (woodcarvers), attests to the vibrancy of folk art in Pampanga. "You just don't see them in museums; art is part of the Kapampangans' daily lives." For example, locals still make pottery in Santo Tomas, pukpuk (hammering silver metal works, usually to create religious figures) in Apalit and Florida, and parol (lantern) in Bacolor. The parol

figures in the popular Giant Lantern Festival in San Fernando held every December, where the lanterns' multicolored lights flash in time to the music. For the curious, Banal's photos of some of Pampanga's folk art and festivals can be found inside Clark Museum.

The spirit of Pampanga's traditional folk art can also be found in modern Kapampangan art and design. For example, designer Jude Tiotico, whose company Industria Design makes artisanal street furniture, is inspired by the "design silhouettes of the mid-Century modern era and vintage forms, finish, and texture." He combines this inspiration and attention to detail with elements from nature to merge organic structure with his favorite medium, steel, to create one-of-a-kind pieces that look like art but are practical and functional. Industria Design has local and overseas clients and was, in fact, commissioned to create a metal installation in front of the Aquatics Center in time for the 2019 Southeast Asian Games held in Clark, Pampanga. ●

RHEA CLAIRE MADARANG is a writer, researcher, and documenter whose work and wanderlust take her to remote islands and bustling cities alike. You may read her travel stories and guides at www.iamtravelinglight.com

THERE'S
ALWAYS
SOMETHING
NEW TO
TRY NO
MATTER
HOW LONG
YOU'VE
BEEN IN
PAMPANGA





1

AQUATICS CENTER

The world-class swim arena has a 10-lane Olympic-size pool, a dive pool, and a warm-up pool.

THE AQUATICS CENTER

MTD Clark Inc., president Nicholas David holds two rectangular pieces of material in his hands: one is made of rubber, the other is made of steel. Both are the color of a pale blue sky on a pleasant, cloudless morning in New Clark City.

“We’ll have a concrete underlining,” points out David. “Then these steel tiles over them and then the rubber lining on top of that.”

These two are just some of the top-shelf materials used in the crafting of the pool of the Aquatics Center. David further explained that while ceramic tiles are acceptable, the steel tiles take less upkeep and have more tolerance, plus with ceramics you need to have your concrete surface very, very flat. With the steel, there will be no molds or long-term grime sticking to the grout.

Certified by the Federation Internationale de Natation (FINA), the Aquatics Center

accommodates 2,000 spectators when finished. In David’s opinion, it is “the most iconic, in terms of design and structure.” After all, David represents the Philippine office of the “leavding Asian infrastructure conglomerate operating in the global market.”

Working off the architectural design of Budji+Royal, MTD Clark Inc., was tasked to develop and engineer the Aquatics Center, whose roof structure was inspired by the baklad, or our indigenous woven fish nets. But more than the aesthetics of the structure, there are technologies inside the facility that are a God-send for athletic performance, like the dry land indoor diving facility that will negate the need for our diving teams to actually train in the pool. Instead, with the use of a foam pit, diving platforms and harnesses, they can do their mid-air spins and pirouettes outside without damaging their bodies by landing thousands of times in the water.

THE AQUATICS CENTER IS THE MOST ICONIC, IN TERMS OF DESIGN AND STRUCTURE.

2

ATHLETICS STADIUM

Certified by the IAAF, the Athletics Stadium conforms to world-class standards.

THE ATHLETICS STADIUM

The Athletics Stadium is comparable to the Aquatics Center in terms of sophistication and the availability of technologies within it and in the neighboring track oval. It is IAAF (International Association of Athletics Federations)-certified, with nine lanes competition track and six lanes warm-up track (Class 1 track certification). It also has a huge holding capacity of 20,000 seats (expandable to 50,000 seats if we’re ever lucky enough to bag the hosting for the Asian games, or even the Olympics). It has four main areas: the primary competition area, the outdoor warm-up track oval, the indoor running warm-up track, and an indoor warm-up area for throwing sports like the shotput, javelin, hammer, and discus throws.

That last item is quite important because, as Nicholas David explains succinctly: “You don’t put in the runners with the throwing people because the runners may get speared by a javelin or trip on a stray shotput.”

The tech of the Athletics Stadium is top-shelf, too. It’s equipped with smart tracks that can detect time and pressure and the rate of run and gallop, which are factors crucial to determine how an athlete must adjust to perform better in a run. Another featured facility that is forthcoming is the High-Performance Gym and Sports Museum, which will house a cryo chamber, high altitude chamber, anti-gravity treadmills, and even a flotation chamber.

“We’re even trying to see if it’s feasible to get a 3D simulator,” explains David. “(So) if you’re practicing you can get to simulate an entire crowd and feel the reality of the competition, (complete) with the boos and the cheers.” ●

KARL DE MESA

is a veteran journalist, editor, and the author of the award-winning non-fiction books “Radiant Void” and “Report from the Abyss.” A grappling enthusiast and a practitioner of Brazilian Luta Livre, he also co-hosts the MMA and fight culture podcast Destroy Manila.



CLARK
IT WORKS. LIKE A DREAM.

WORLD-CLASS GLOBAL GATEWAY

ALL SYSTEMS GO FOR THE NEW CLARK INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

WORDS RAMIL DIGAL GULLE





THE NEW 110,000-SQUARE METER CLARK INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT TERMINAL, currently under construction and slated for completion in 2020, is meant to be a new global gateway to the Philippines. Besides helping boost tourism, it is also expected to encourage more investors and businesses to put their money and set up shop in the country.

Another major cause for excitement over the new Clark International Airport is the involvement of Changi Airports Philippines Pte. Ltd., as the technical consultant for operations and management. It is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the world-famous Changi Airport Group and is a leading consultant, manager, and investor in global aviation. Its expertise is showcased across the 20 countries where it helps in the operations and management of more than 50 airports.

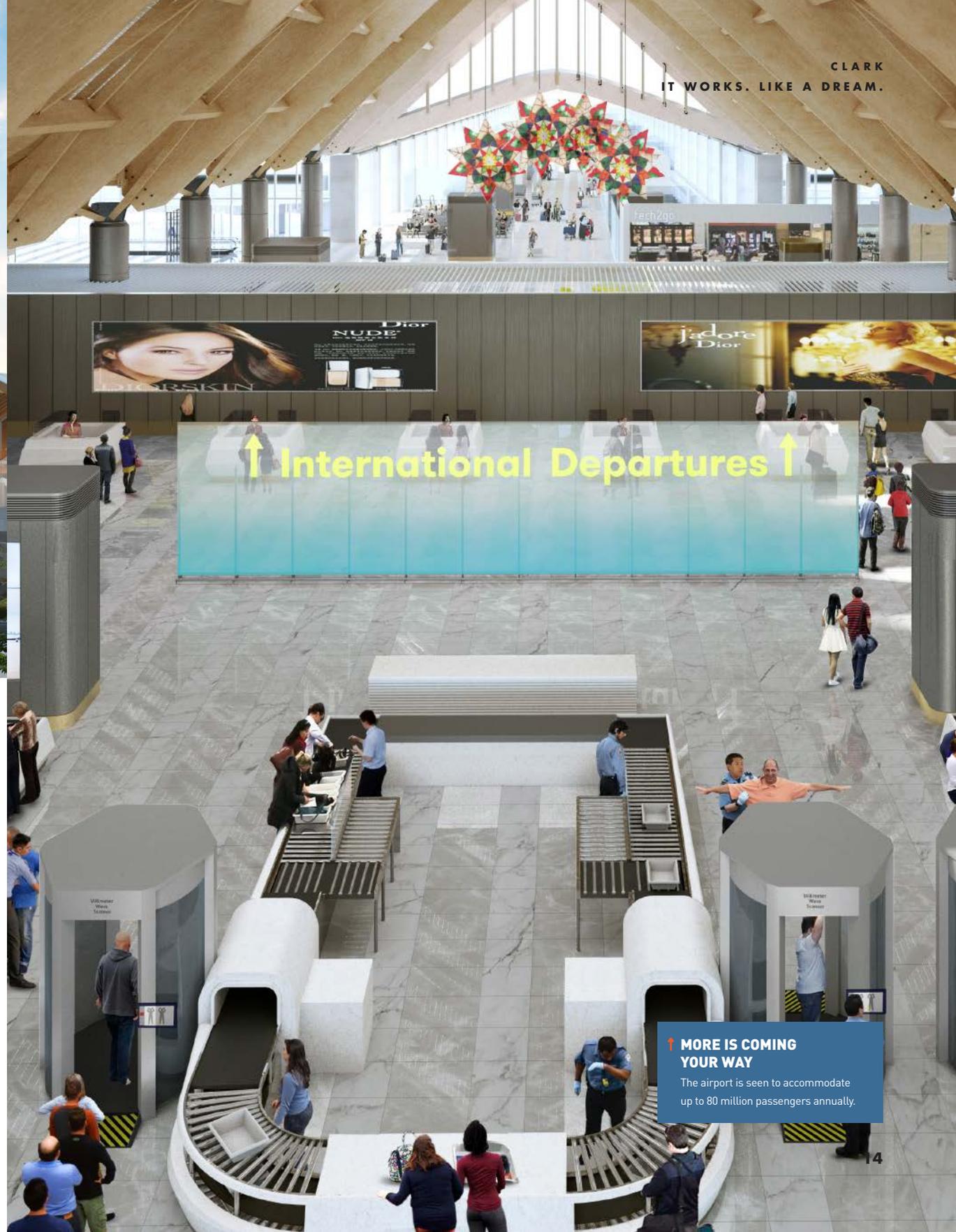
According to Engr. Joshua M. Bingcang, Senior Vice President of the Business

Development and Operations Group of BCDA, the contract for the construction of the new 110,000-sqm. international airport building was awarded to the Consortium of Megawide.

The operator of the new Clark International Airport is the Luzon International Premiere Airport Development Corp. (LIPAD), the consortium of Changi, Filinvest, JG Summit, and the Philippine Airport Ground Support Solutions (PAGSS). As operator, LIPAD plans to provide improved commercial offerings at the new terminal, including an extensive selection of retail and food & beverage outlets.

LIPAD is also working towards providing a wider network of routes to travelers, connecting Clark to more domestic and international points. The new Clark International Airport will have an additional 8 million passengers per annum (MPPA) capacity, compared to the current 4 million passengers per year.

CLARK INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT SUPPORTS REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT BY ACTING AS THE INTERNATIONAL GATEWAY TO NORTHERN & CENTRAL LUZON.



↑ International Departures ↑

↑ **MORE IS COMING YOUR WAY**
The airport is seen to accommodate up to 80 million passengers annually.



THE REBRANDING OF CLARK

MAKING THINGS WORK

We are building Clark with the people's wellbeing in mind. It's a place where people can really thrive.

WORDS ROSSANA UNSON

BEING IN CLARK IS AN ACTUAL ENCOUNTER WITH A PLACE WHERE EVERYTHING ACTUALLY WORKS. This is how the new Clark tagline-- "It Works. Like A Dream."--came to be. As BCDA Chairman Greg Garcia says, "When you look at the master plan of Clark, it's really about things working."

As "Clark" refers to the four districts it covers--Clark Freeport Zone, Clark International Airport, Clark Global City, and New Clark City--the whole rebranding process was actually inspired to highlight each district's contribution to the modern city experience, while at the same time uniting them under one umbrella to present a new Clark identity. The new personality stands for efficiency, things and processes that actually work, convenience for its inhabitants, and ease of doing business for all locators.

Also part of the rebranding process is the birth of New Clark City, which used to be known as Clark Green City. The new name is more apt as New Clark City is so much more than just a green city. It is also smart, resilient, environmentally sustainable, socially inclusive, economically competitive, culturally relevant, and technologically integrated. Clark, in essence, is made of four districts that have their particular strengths but work together smoothly as one whole. ●

ROSSANA UNSON is a writer and a PR & marketing consultant. She is mother to two brilliant girls and a senior cat. She cooks, bakes, gardens and one day hopes to write a book.

EVERYONE WANTS TO MOVE TO THE BIG CITY
GOOD MONEY, GOOD JOBS, A PLACE TO BE PRODUCTIVE.
BUT THE PARADOX IS THAT CITIES DON'T WORK FOR PEOPLE,
EVEN THOUGH THEY'RE FULL OF THEM.
IT'S A PRESSURE COOKER OF CONGESTION,
POLLUTION, AND RENT YOU CAN'T AFFORD.

Clark is Different.

BECAUSE IT WAS **BUILT FROM SCRATCH**
CRAFTED TO BE **BUILT FOR PEOPLE**
TO HAVE THE **VIBRANCY OF A CITY**
WITHOUT THE **PRESSURE OF CITY LIFE;**
AND **THE ENERGY OF A CULTURE**
THAT IS HAPPY AND INCLUSIVE.

IT'S AMAZING WHAT YOU CAN DO
WHEN YOU'RE IN THE RIGHT PLACE.



The Secret Sauce

CLARK INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, The airport will be a mere 15 to 20 minutes from where anyone is. What sets Clark apart from any other development in Asia is the proximity to an impressive international airport that is easily accessible and that can accommodate more passengers, more flights, and more destinations. With a new passenger terminal in the works, Clark International Airport will eventually be able to handle 80 million passengers annually at full capacity.



What makes a great city?

PEOPLE. Chairman Greg explains, "People want to be in a place where the atmosphere isn't like a pressure cooker. Clark is going to be built for people; it's going to be a place where the work and living environments are less tense because things do work, because what makes people tense is when things don't work."

The pressure cooker atmosphere arises from rapid urbanization and growth. This results in high costs of rent and property, increased cost of living, longer working hours, pollution, congestion, and a stressful school system. The plan is to save the inhabitants of Clark from all of these. To counter pollution, only 1/3 of Clark's total land area will be developed. The rest will remain as is, and structures will be built around, not built over, the natural features. Trees, greenery, and other natural features will not just become part of Clark but will constitute the majority of the development.

To avoid congestion, roads will have broad pedestrian lanes and multiple bicycle lanes that are wide and exclusive. Clark Loop, the bus rapid transport system (BRT), has been running since November 2019 when the SEA Games was being held in the area. It remains free of charge for the public until May 2020.



No traffic in Clark!

WORDS MAAN D'ASIS PAMARAN



The urban planning of Clark includes provisions for a traffic-free city.

BRT TERMINAL
Clark is being built for people; not for cars or things.

METRO MANILA IS IN A PERPETUAL GRIDLOCK, and that has affected not only the flow of business into the cities but also the quality of life of the people who work and live there.

Clark Development Corporation (CDC) took note of the challenges of commuting within Metro Manila and will be implementing innovative solutions to make it easier to move around the city of the future. According to CDC Vice President for Engineering Operations Engr. Alveen Tabag, public transport has been factored into the design and infrastructure within Clark, along with provisions to encourage bike rides for a healthier populace.

Palafox and Associates took a good look at the landscape and prepared a master plan for Clark's urban development. The sprawling lands are set to accommodate much more than the 120,000 employees who come into the converted military base every day. And so one of the solutions to be implemented is the Bus Rapid Transport (BRT) system, which can take workers and tourists from point A to point B conveniently.

The Palafox plans also detail how road congestions, much like the ones that occur in Manila, can be avoided. One of the main considerations is to have wider roads. "There will be no obstructions because the BRT

terminals will be at the middle of the roads, so buses don't need to swerve to load or unload passengers. Instead of overpasses, pedestrians will cross using an underpass. All utilities will also be underground," Engr. Tabag says.

Another transportation feature is a depot to be managed by SM. Clark allotted 7.5 hectares for this depot. The North-South Commuter Railway will have a station there, where passengers can disembark and depart for their destinations via the buses or jeepneys. Clark allotted 2.5 hectares for this depot, but SM is planning further expansion.

At the moment, there are two main entry points into Clark. CDC is planning to add more, including one that is dedicated to delivery trucks, to help ease the flow of traffic.

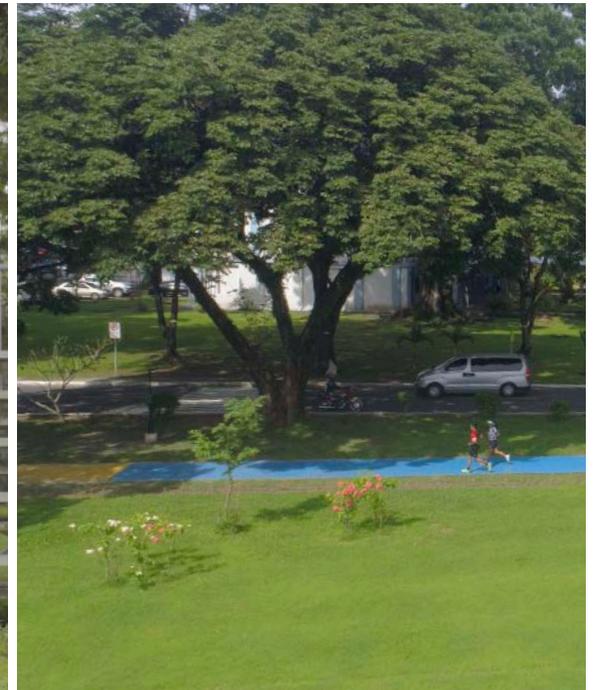
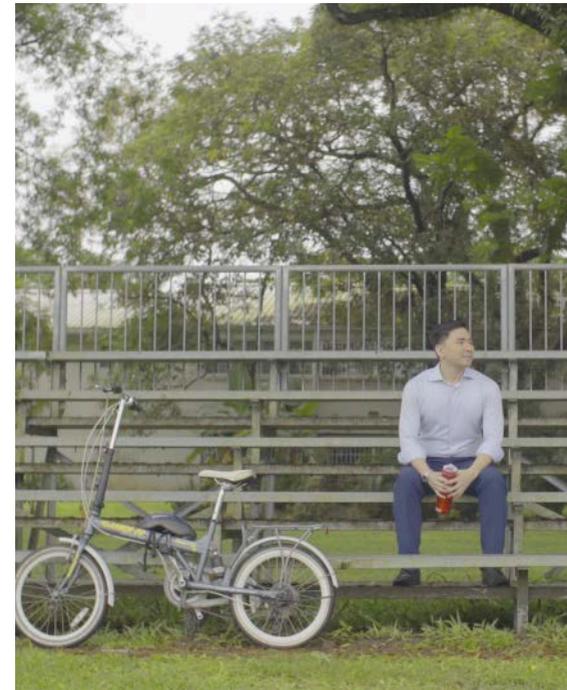
"If the vehicle volume still becomes too large, we can still expand the roads with our right of way allowances. We can also foresee including other modes of transport into the mix, such as a train system," Engr. Tabag says confidently. ●

MAAN D'ASIS PAMARAN is a freelance writer whose work is published in several national dailies, magazines, and top online news and lifestyle sites. She is an advocate for a better, more progressive and inclusive Philippines.

CDC WILL IMPLEMENT INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS TO MAKE IT EASIER TO MOVE AROUND THE CITY OF THE FUTURE.

SPACES FOR THE PEOPLE

WORDS TRICIA MORENTE



By adopting a people-first urban development mindset, Clark Freeport Zone builds its way toward becoming Luzon's second metropolis.

ONE PECULIAR FACT WILL DAWN ON YOU AS YOU DRIVE AROUND CLARK FREEPORT ZONE (CFZ) at the height of rush hour: an apparent lack of cars on the road.

It's an odd but welcome respite especially if you're coming from Metro Manila, where the sight of bumper-to-bumper, traffic-choked highways has become the new normal. Instead, what Clark lacks in vehicular traffic it makes up for in its growing number of tree-lined bike lanes and lawns, wider sidewalks, and green, open spaces.

A significant recipient of the government's ambitious \$180 billion Build, Build, Build infrastructure program, Clark Freeport Zone is being developed to be the second National Capital Region in Luzon—one designed to not only decongest the Philippine capital of Metro Manila, but also built as a space sans the current lifestyle

headaches that plague the citizens of highly urbanized central business districts.

According to Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA) President and CEO Vivencio Dizon, severe congestion, daily traffic jams, and worsening pollution have no place in Clark Freeport Zone. "We are building primarily for people. We are investing in the necessary infrastructure to make Clark a people-friendly environment," he says.

BCDA recognizes that cities work when they let people meet, hang out and sit; that it's less about the buildings than the bits in between. With this in mind, the organization has tapped Singapore firm Surbana Jurong for its freeport development plan, where a key urban design guideline has been "protecting spaces for people."

Already the partnership is bearing fruit: within Clark Freeport Zone, people-centric development has thus far led to increased



60%
OF LAND
RESERVED
AS GREEN,
OPEN SPACE

CLARK
IT WORKS. LIKE A DREAM.



walkability, independent and dedicated bicycle lanes being built around the city and its famous Parade Grounds, and an unprecedented 60 percent of land reserved as green, open space.

INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS, tourist destinations and activities, places of worship, a museum, and investments worth PhP2 billion poured into such theme parks as Aqua Planet Theme Park and Clark Safari Park have also contributed to making Clark a family and lifestyle destination. Dizon reveals that even he himself recently relocated his family to Clark. “I live here now—my daughter studies here. Since moving, I don’t want to go back to living in Manila because not only are things more convenient in Clark, I’m actually also healthier here. I don’t take my car; I bike to work—it’s become my contribution to the environment,” he relates.

Clark Development Corporation (CDC), the organization mandated to transform Clark Freeport Zone into a modern industrial estate befitting the moniker “Asia’s Newest Gateway,” is promoting ease of doing business, and many forms of connectivity and wayfinding efforts within the new metropolis.

According to CDC president and CEO Noel Manankil, Clark’s strategic location, the ongoing expansion of its 2,500-hectare modern aviation complex,

and government tax incentive benefits may be the top draws attracting investment into Clark Freeport Zone, but locators also appreciate the fact that “they talk to only one face of government,” says Manankil. “All the permits locators need to secure from different government agencies can be obtained from our One Stop Action Center. Everything is automated, and because you’re only talking to your designated ‘town officer’, you cut through red tape.”

As it is, Clark not only encourages its locators to employ green technology by affording them further incentives, there are also plans by CDC to eventually close off certain roads to cars. “We want to minimize the use of cars. Once our bike lanes are done, and all big-ticket infrastructure are completed, that’s one of the first things we plan to do,” reveals Manankil.

Dizon shares that the ultimate vision for Clark is twofold: “To develop Clark into the second metropolis of Luzon, and for it to become the country’s first green, resilient, and smart city.” ●

TRICIA MORENTE

is an editor and journalist focusing on business and innovation. Some of her recent works include the award-winning book “On The March: The Jesuits in the Philippines since the Restoration” and special reports on the ASEAN tech start-up ecosystem for Inc. Southeast Asia.

GREEN + WALKABLE

Clark’s planned green metropolis promotes continuous walkability without taking anything away from the natural scenery.

CLARK ENCOURAGES ITS LOCATORS TO EMPLOY GREEN TECHNOLOGY BY AFFORDING THEM FURTHER INCENTIVES.

CLARK
IT WORKS. LIKE A DREAM.



TRADING
URBAN NOISE
FOR
RURAL LIGHT

WORDS CECILE JUSI BALTASAR

DOTr’s Asec. Goddes Libiran moved to Clark three years ago, and she never wants to leave.

“Why didn’t we do this sooner?”

ASEC. GODDES LIBIRAN, ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND COMMUTER AFFAIRS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (DOTr), used to live a life much different from the one she has today in Clark, Pampanga. It’s a change she’s over the moon for.

More than three years ago, her routine was hectic but well-practiced. She braved Makati traffic every day to drive to and from the DOTr office in Ortigas. When she moved her residence from Tagaytay to Makati, distance became more manageable to her, but the pollution and overcrowded streets were not. “Besides that, there was no sufficient parking in our building so we had to park in front. That was ironic because we were working for the DOTr and we were the ones causing traffic,” she says.

In July 2017 the DOTr, the primary entity in charge of the country’s transportation systems, had enough. They moved to a more spacious office in Clark Freeport Zone. Asec.

Goddes, her husband, and their then year-old daughter moved to Clark as well. The change from urban jungle to rural paradise was something the DOTr employees didn’t know they needed.

“The environment I now work in is clean, fresh, and serene; I don’t see any trash anywhere, and there’s no smog. Also, I live just 15 to 20 minutes from my office,” she shares. When she gets to the DOTr office, which has glass walls and floor-to-ceiling windows, there’s no shortage of sky, space, and light. “It’s so spacious; we get such good vibes here,” she says. “There are so many trees around, and that definitely lessens work stress.” ●

CECILE JUSI BALTASAR

writes and edits digital content but, once in a while, goes back to print for some old-school fun. She lives in the far south with her husband, kids, and dogs (plus some stray chickens, goats, and frogs).





↑ **DOTr Vegetable Garden**

VEGETABLE GARDENS DOT THE FRONTAGE OF THE DOTr COMPOUND. Instead of ornamental plants and trimmed ficus trees in pots, there is lush vegetable landscaping. “We don’t plant roses here. Instead, we have tomatoes, chilies, eggplant, okra, papaya, sweet potatoes, even leafy greens and herbs,” says Asec. Goddes.

Tending DOTr’s vegetable gardens are Aetas once displaced by the Mt. Pinatubo eruption in 1991. They live within the DOTr compound and are such talented green thumbs that their fellow employees regularly enjoy fresh vegetables. At harvest time, they place the vegetables in the DOTr lobby; anyone can freely get whatever they need.



↑ **AQUA PLANET**

“The main reason I fell in love with this place is that Clark is so suitable for different kinds of activities,” says Asec. Goddes. “When I want to jog, I just go to the CDC Parade Grounds. When I want coffee, I just go to the many coffee shops around. You won’t get scared walking outside by yourself because the place is so secure and well-lit, with CCTV cameras all over. There are no loiterers.”



← **KOREAN TOWN**

Asec. Goddes and her family loves to visit Korean Town in Angeles City, about a 20-minute drive from Clark. “You’ll think you weren’t in the Philippines, with the Korean restaurants and groceries all around you,” she says. When her husband is in town, their little family sometimes goes fishing in nearby Candaba in Tarlac. Other times, they go to the beaches in Subic, just an hour’s drive from Clark via the SCTEX.



← **SCHOOLS**

“My daughter is starting pre-school next year, and I’m happy there are so many choices of good schools for her here,” she says. These choices include Gentry International School, Westfields International School, and Singapore International School. Aside from schools, other educational destinations include the Clark Museum and 4D Theater where people can go to learn about the history of Clark as a military base.



HITOSHI KOBAYASHI, the President and CEO of Yokohama Tire Philippines, Inc., believes that Clark is an ideal business address primarily because of its location. “We can go to the capitals of Japan, China, Taiwan, Korea, Vietnam, Thailand, and Indonesia within 4 hours by plane,” he says. In addition to this, he anticipates the opening of the new passenger terminal in Clark International Airport, which means that, in all likelihood, there will be more direct flights to Clark from the capital cities of the aforementioned places.

Mr. Kobayashi also values the fact that the Philippines is a democratic nation with a huge percentage of English-speaking citizens. He adds, “Recently, public security has improved and the Philippines’ economic growth has been at more than 6% every year—this is almost at par with the top countries in Asia.” He even compared Clark to Singapore, saying that Clark is, indeed, “a safe, convenient, and elegant city.” ●

One-Stop-Shop

CLARK DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION President Noel Manankil is proud of the fact that Clark’s investors only need to deal with one department when going through the investment processes; and these procedures are automated, saving everyone a lot of time, effort, and money.

Part of the law on EODB that President Duterte signed last year is the establishment of a one-stop-shop that can facilitate permit applications in every LGU. CDC, some government agencies, and the Mabalacat LGU signed a MOA to hasten the delivery of OSPC’s (One-Stop Processing Center) services.

The OSPC covers such procedures as SSS registration and membership, PhilHealth premium payments processing and registration, processing of Pag-IBIG contributions, and other government services.

WHEN AN INVESTOR STARTS TO OPEN A BUSINESS IN A METROPOLIS, he may be up against several challenges: a long list of requirements and expensive fees, confusing and exhausting registration processes, huge taxes, and other possible reasons why it may be easier for him to simply turn around and leave.

To address the country’s low ranking in recent World Bank Ease of Doing Business (EODB) surveys, the government of President Duterte is pushing for more regulatory reforms to streamline business regulations in the Philippines. He signed into law the EODB and Efficient Government Service Delivery Act of 2018, which provides businesses with a streamlined process and reduced processing times.

Many local investors say that doing business in Pampanga’s economic center has for some time been a breeze, even before the signing of the EODB law. The latter is, of course, still a welcome boost to the flourishing investment environment in Pampanga, specifically in Clark.

Clark’s business environment is thriving in a way that major local and foreign companies have decided to move their operations here. Big names like Texas Instruments, SFA Semicon, UPS International, Inc., and Sumidense Automotive Technologies are just a few of the investors that are now calling Clark their home. ●

AIMEE MORALES is the editor of this publication. She is a writer, poet, and the founder of the writing community FLOW and the Freelance Writers’ Guild of the Philippines. You may reach her through morales.aimeerom@gmail.com

**SAFE
CONVENIENT
ELEGANT**

Investors love doing business in Clark. Here are the reasons why.

WORDS **AIMEE MORALES**

YOUR PLACE IN THE SUN

WORDS KARL DE MESA

THIS IS HOW THE NATIONAL TEAM TRIATHLETES PLAY AND TRAIN IN CLARK.

WHEN YOU'RE A FITNESS BUFF, YOU ARE ALWAYS ON THE LOOKOUT FOR THE IDEAL TRAINING AREA: wide spaces, lots of greenery, fresh air, and the absence of big crowds. Families and groups also need green places where they can run free, enjoy nature, allow the children to play, hold weekend picnics, and indulge in their favorite sports. Clark can be all of these things for many people. But for a smaller group of regulars, the professional athletes, Clark is also an ideal training ground.

Nikko Huelgas and John "Rambo" Chicano, both triathletes and SEA Games medalists, race under the Philippine banner of their Team Go For Gold. They represented the country in the SEA Games triathlon event for the men's elite division, which the country hosted last November 2019. "As an update also, as of September 2019, the triathletes have been staying in the Athletes' Village in New Clark City. Almost all the national athletes of Team Go for Gold, under the

watchful eye of Coach Melvin Fausto, train in the Clark and Subic area.

The green expanse of the Clark Parade Grounds is their usual stomping territory. "Clark Parade Grounds is where we always train," said Huelgas. "It's a main landmark for fun runs and meet-ups of those with an active or sports lifestyle." The athletes opined that the well-marked bike lanes of Clark, coupled with the fresh air and the prevailing flora make it a joy to train in the city. Alongside sporting amateurs and ordinary rookies are the pros like Huelgas and Chicano who take joy in being able to play at such an open and well-maintained location. This is partly why the national team moved their training barracks to Pampanga.

"The facilities and improvements are good, definitely better than the other



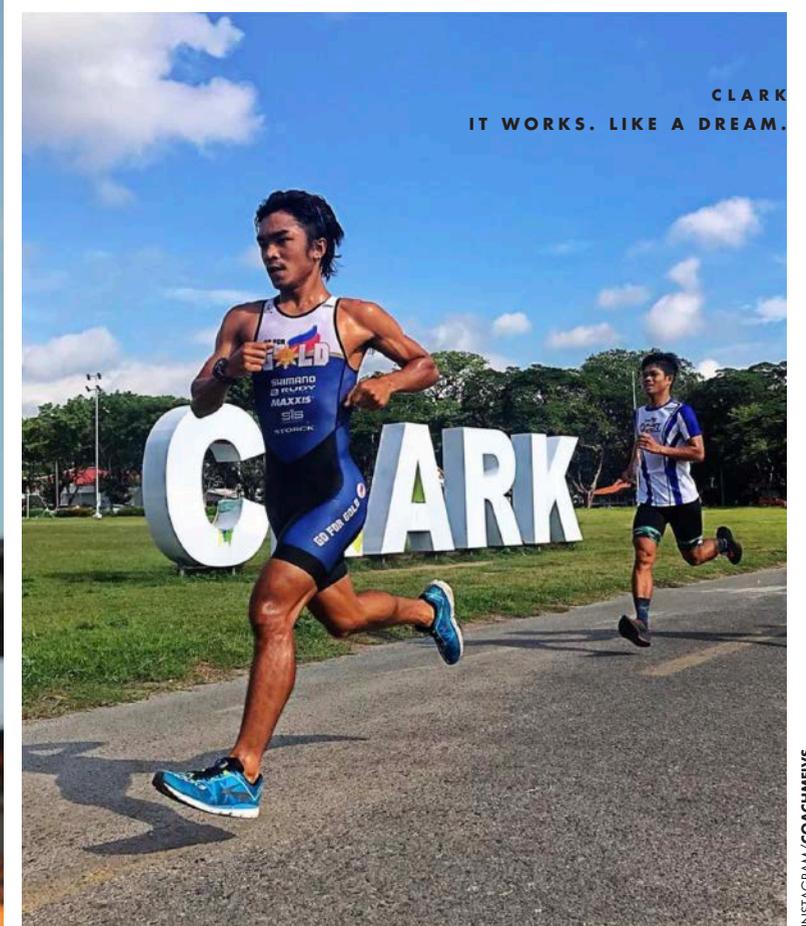
CLARK
IT WORKS. LIKE A DREAM.

↓ ATHLETICS STADIUM

Like what happened in the 2019 SEA Games, Clark will continue to see an influx of sporting events that will bring scores of athletes and their fans and families. The standard of serious athletic play will be dictated by what Clark and its facilities can bring to the table, especially in light of the new high-tech athletic centers that were initially built for the SEA Games.



CLARK
IT WORKS. LIKE A DREAM.



INSTAGRAM / COACHMELVS

places where we train,” said Chicano, who managed to win a gold medal in the triathlon event at the 2019 SEA Games. “For beginners, safety first, especially with biking. Here in Clark, it’s safe and easy to train because there are stoplights and bike lines that are a big help for athletes like us.”

“Serving the country as a national athlete is always worth it. For me, that’s the biggest motivation,” said Huelgas, a two-time SEA Games gold medalist. But it really doesn’t matter whether you’re a pro athlete, a serious runner, a young mom wanting to play with her children, a part of a group of friends looking for wholesome ways to spend time together—you will find your place in the sun in Clark. ●

KARL DE MESA

is a veteran journalist, editor, and the author of the award-winning non-fiction books “Radiant Void” and “Report from the Abyss.” A grappling enthusiast and a practitioner of Brazilian Luta Livre, he also co-hosts the MMA and fight culture podcast Destroy Manila.

↑ THE PARADE GROUNDS

The Parade Grounds’ jogging pathway is clearly defined and the area is full of spaces where fitness enthusiasts and athletes can sit back and take a breather, like the nearby local bike shop Cycles and Brew. The café/bike shop is where cyclists can score high-end branded gear and accessories, and kick back with a cuppa joe or even some craft beer. For heavier fare, restaurants like Wooden Table & Paris City Café, Matam-ih, and Café Mesa are also conveniently located near the Parade Grounds. These are perfect for those needing recovery food or just a bite of pre-training energy.

During weekends, the Parade Grounds is bustling. The Pinas Cup football tournament and other sports tourism gatherings, like the start and finish line of fun runs and duathlons, often coincide with family-oriented events like the Comercio Central Mangan Tamu weekend lifestyle market that features concessionaires selling authentic Kapampangan dishes and products. It’s open from Friday to Sunday, 4:00 p.m. to 12:00 midnight.

A CLARK RESIDENT SPEAKS

WORDS RHEA CLAIRE MADARANG



**HERE IT'S
QUIET
UNLIKE
BUSY MANILA.
THE AIR
IS FRESH
AND THE
PEOPLE
ARE SIMPLE,
HUMBLE, AND
GRATEFUL.**

Living in Clark is all about the simple life, with city conveniences.

40-YEAR OLD FILIPINO-AMERICAN KEN ALAMO'S DAILY SCHEDULE IN CLARK IS PACKED YET FLEXIBLE. After seeing off his wife Aneeliz to work and taking his teenage kids Keanne and Bella to school, he could be doing any number of things: working out with a client in his home gym (he is a fitness trainer), running an errand for the Clark International Football Association (CIFA), which he initiated, doing volunteer work at the church where he and his family sing with the choir every Sunday, or doing household chores. On Mondays and Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m., he brings all his home gym equipment to the Clark Development Corporation (CDC) Parade Grounds to hold outdoor boot camps that are open to everyone. His wife joins him in these boot camps after work.

He and his family had just moved to Clark in June last year, after his wife got assigned to work in a Clark-based

multinational company. Ken has now adjusted to the place and is excited at the possibilities it offers. "Clark, to me, is a blank slate," he says. Coming here has given him a chance to connect and create communities like CIFA. Apart from this, he and his wife are also organizing a youth camp for their church mates.

Ken appreciates the essentials and conveniences that the city offers. Through a realtor, they found a home suited to their needs and perfect for Ken's fitness training consultancy. They were also able to put their kids in an international school. Shopping centers are a necessity and the presence of hospitals with international standards gives them peace of mind. The international airport also makes travel more accessible.

What Ken loves about their life in Clark is the quiet simplicity and the community. "Here it is quiet, unlike busy Manila. The

air is fresh and the people are simple, humble, and grateful." He also notes the diversity of players in CIFA--the kids come from different countries. And speaking of other races, many people of different nationalities live in Clark. Ken Alamo feels comfortable blending in as a Filipino-American.

Ken is both hopeful and grateful to be living in Clark as he believes "it is a place with a city feel but a provincial mindset. It's a growing city, a progressive city--thanks to what Clark and BCDA are doing!" ●

RHEA CLAIRE MADARANG is a writer, researcher, and documenter whose work and wanderlust take her to remote islands and bustling cities alike. You may read her travel stories and guides at www.iamtravellinglight.com

→ GO ON A HIKE!

For a day out in the city, the Alamo family's go-to place is the Aqua Planet Water Theme Park. And if they want to engage in outdoor activities like hiking, Clark has beautiful nature trails, which the Alamo family sometimes enjoys with visiting friends.

"Inside Clark's Special Economic Zone is Sitio Haduan, where you can hike through a river... in the end there's a waterfall," Ken shares. Aside from Sitio Haduan, the Alamo family together with their friends and relatives love to go to Puning Hot Springs in Angeles and Pinatubo Lake in Zambales. Occasionally, Ken volunteers to coach some football players from the indigenous Aeta community in Sitio Target.



THE FUTURE IS HERE

Udenna Corporation outlines its plans for the dream city that is Clark Global City (CGC).

WORDS MAAN D'ASIS PAMARAN

CLARK GLOBAL CITY (CGC) is a 177-hectare master-planned, mixed-use development that offers the perfect mix of prime real estate, support facilities, and auxiliary lifestyle amenities. Situated only 80 kilometers north of Metro Manila, the City is easily accessible by car via the North Luzon Expressway (NLEX) and the Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway (SCTEX) and is located next to Clark International Airport (CRK). The City's strategic location and direct access to air, land, and sea transport, alongside government infrastructure projects surrounding the premises, make CGC an ideal commercial business district.

"We believe CGC is the solution to the current congestion issues of Metro Manila. Due to its location within the Clark Freeport Zone (CFZ), CGC enjoys a favorable regulatory, economic, and operating environment, making it a very attractive location for large local and international corporations considering to relocate outside Metro Manila," explains Mr. Wilfredo Placino, Director of Udenna Corporation and President of Clark City Corporation and Udenna Environmental Services, Inc.

In November 2017, the Udenna Group, through Clark Global City Corporation (CGCC), acquired 100% of Global



Gateway Development Corporation (GGDC), the entity party to the Master Lease Agreement with Clark International Airport Corporation (CIAC). The Lease Agreement grants GGDC rights to a 50-year long-term lease on the largest remaining contiguous parcel of land inside CFZ. Soon after taking over, Udenna's management exercised the option to extend the lease by another 25 years, or until 2085.

With the lofty ideals of CGC, it takes a maverick in the industry to make this dream come true. The Udenna Group is considered one of the fastest growing conglomerates in the country, with business interests in Oil, Gas and Retail; Shipping and Logistics; Real Estate; Education, Hospitality and Food; Gaming and Tourism; and Infrastructure & Development. "We pride ourselves in utilizing inter-company synergies within the group and maximizing business opportunities through collaboration, shared expertise, and joint business ventures," explains Placino.

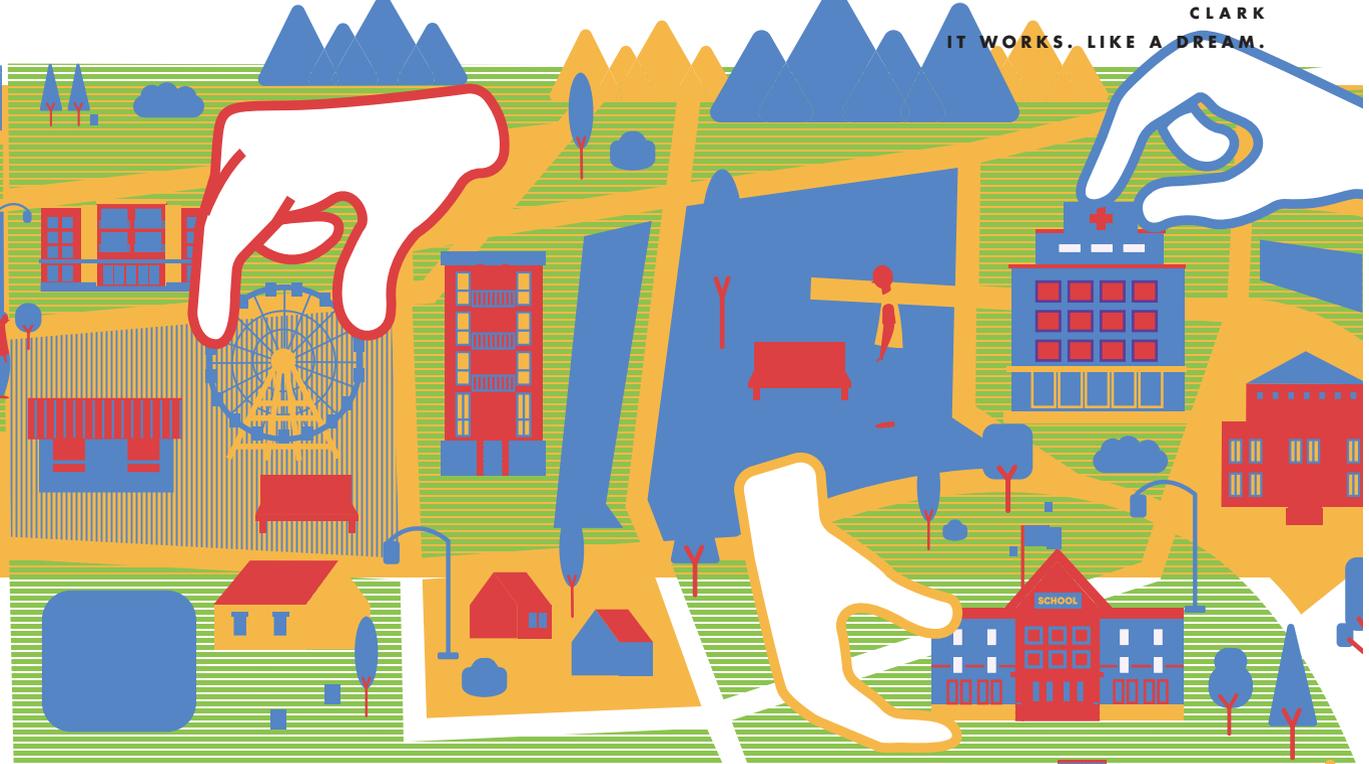
Clark Global City will be a balanced mix of mid-rise residential condominiums, street and lifestyle malls, mixed-use buildings, corporate office towers, hotels and casinos, complemented by credible school establishments, churches, an amphitheatre, libraries, museums, and a convention center. Pocket parks will be accentuated by breathtaking art installations by National Artists.

Udenna Corporation, through GGDC, is set to develop the 177-hectare prime estate inside the Clark Freeport Zone into a global business destination with a US\$5 billion investment budget spread out over the next ten years. He shares, "We anticipate CGC to be the New Center of Business, Life and Innovation, and a complement to the government's efforts to promote growth and spur economic transformation outside Metro Manila." ●

WE ANTICIPATE CLARK GLOBAL CITY TO BE THE NEW CENTER OF BUSINESS, LIFE, AND INNOVATION.

CLARK GLOBAL CITY

The new plans drawn up for CGC are inspired by successful models in other countries, such as the diverse Chicago commercial district composed of prime offices, residential areas, and auxiliary offices; Hong Kong's Central Business District that is walkable and connected through skywalks and integrated public transportation systems; Dubai's iconic landmark branding that is symbolic of the new, dynamic, and progressive city; and the neighborhood feel of the Millennium Park in Chicago, which brims with day-to-day events and festivities.



BUILDING for PROGRESS

BCDA projects support the nation's growth and development

WORDS RAMIL DIGAL GULLE

IN ORDER TO ATTAIN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROGRESS, the Philippines has to construct more roads, airports, sea ports, and other structures that would encourage business and investments. BCDA President and CEO Vince Dizon explains that the traffic, pollution, MRT breakdowns, lack of public transport are all just symptoms of the actual, more widespread and larger disease: the infrastructure gap.

"If you read all the reports, and listen to the experts, they're all saying that compared to our neighbors in Southeast Asia, the Philippines is 20 to 30 years behind in the amount and quality of our infrastructure." He pointed out that throughout history, especially in the 20th century, countries that became economically developed and powerful first had to invest heavily in infrastructure. "The transition from a rural agricultural economy to a manufacturing, export-

oriented economic power can be traced to the investments of these countries in infrastructure," he says.

The Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA) has the mandate to convert former military bases into world-class, self-sustaining centers for economic growth for the benefit of the Filipino. Some of BCDA's key infrastructure developments are located in Clark, including New Clark City, Clark International Airport, the Manila-Clark Railway, and the Subic-Clark Railway. These projects are boosting Central Luzon's gross domestic product (GDP), which grew to 9.3 percent in 2017, almost three percent higher than the country's GDP of 6.7 percent for the same year.

THE MALOLOS-CLARK RAILWAY is a 53-kilometer passenger railway connecting suburban Malolos, Bulacan to Clark. The project is part of the North-

South Commuter Railway (NSCR) system, a 163-kilometer suburban railway network stretching from New Clark City to Calamba, Laguna. Envisioned to be finished in 2025, the railway is seen to provide safe, reliable and affordable public transportation for around "342,000 passengers in the Manila-Clark corridor." It is also seen to cut travel time between Manila and Clark International Airport from two to three hours to less than one hour.

IN NEW CLARK CITY, THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER (NGAC) is currently being finished to meet the target operation and launch date in 2020. As one of the government's flagship infrastructure projects, it brings government agencies and workers closer together to ensure faster and more efficient processes and improved delivery of service for the country's citizens.

With the addition of a new terminal

at **CLARK INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**, the number of passengers that the airport can accommodate in a year could swell up to over 80 million people. That number makes Clark International Airport comparable to the world's biggest airports. Its target completion date is middle of 2020. The airport is also seen to help minimize the congestion at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) in Manila and usher in a period of rapid economic growth and development.

FROM 2013 TO 2018, BCDA AND NLEX CORPORATION continuously implemented improvements and maintenance works along the 94-kilometer expressway that is the **SUBIC-CLARK-TARLAC EXPRESSWAY (SCTEX)**. Faster and safer travel means more investments and healthier tourism activities in the region. Industrial centers in Subic, Bataan, and Tarlac have seen a boom in terms of economic growth. And the area will continue to experience the same or even higher growth because of current developments like the ongoing construction of the **BAMBAN INTERCHANGE** that connects SCTEX to New Clark City.

BCDA is making sure that **JOBS AND OTHER LIVELIHOOD OPPORTUNITIES** are available for local residents in the areas where developments happen, particularly for the indigenous peoples (IP) living in Capas, Tarlac. Specifically, more than 300 Aetas were employed by BCDA in New Clark City. The agency also holds regular dialogues with the NCIP and the communities so that they know what's happening and can communicate their concerns and messages to the government. Aside from this, the new roads also provide the farmers, residents, and IPs easier access to town centers and markets especially when they are coming from far-flung locations. ●

RAMIL DIGAL GULLE'S writing career spans journalism, literary arts, marketing, and PR. He is the author of four poetry books and has won the Nick Joaquin Literary Award (Poet of the Year, 2018).





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