

PGMA inaugurates Mati City's modern public market on its 1st anniversary

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo inaugurated on 19 June the P132.78-million newly-built Mati Public Market said to be one of the largest in Mindanao that will boost the city's economic activities as well as lift the standards of living of residents. The market was funded under a loan from the Asian Development Bank's Mindanao Basic Urban Services Sector project (MBUSSP).

As soon as she arrived at the New Mati Public Market with Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya and Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap, she cut the ceremonial ribbon and unveiled the marker signaling its formal opening. She was assisted by Davao Oriental Governor Corazon Malanyaon, Representative Thelma Almario and Mati City Mayor Michelle Marie Denise Rabat. She then toured the market facilities, exchanged pleasantries with provincial executives and local residents.

The New Mati Public Market is built on 1.42 hectare lot and has a floor area of 5,222 square meters. It is a single storey market that houses a total of 606 stalls, commercial and office spaces, ihaw-ihaw and multi-purpose areas.

The Market opening coincided with the celebration of the city's 1st anniversary. Mati became a city by virtue of Republic Act No. 9408 converting the municipality into a city which was duly ratified through a plebiscite and subsequently proclaimed on June 19, 2007.

Stall owners, vendors, and buyers welcomed and thanked President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, who was impressed by the public market, the biggest in the province.

Undersecretary Austere A. Panadero of the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) said the infrastructure is a priority urban project of the City Government established with the assistance of the MBUSSP under DILG Region XI and the Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP).

Regional Director Rodolfo Z. Razul of DILG XI said the construction of the market is included in the City's list of priority projects in the Local Development Investment Plan (1995-2004).

A better market facility is supportive of the LGU's vision to be the center of trade and commerce, agro-based industries and eco-tourism, being the capital town of the province and as requested by local residents and vendors.

DILG Director Paisal O. Abutazil said MBUSSP-DILG provided technical assistance to the City Government in the preparation of the feasibility study, in subproject implementation and management and in the operation and maintenance while the LBP extended investment loan to the LGU for the civil works requirement of the market.