

[EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 172, September 13, 2014]

**DECLARING THE PORT OF BATANGAS AND SUBIC BAY FREEPORT
AS EXTENSIONS OF THE PORT OF MANILA (MICT/SOUTH
HARBOR) DURING PORT CONGESTION AND OTHER EMERGENCY
CASES**

WHEREAS, it is a declared objective of the State to ensure the smooth flow of waterborne commerce passing through the country's ports, whether public or private, in the conduct of international and domestic trade;

WHEREAS, port congestion is one of the major factors hindering the free flow of goods and services passing through the ports, with its domino effects immediately cascading and impacting on the demand-supply chain and eventually to the country's economic growth and performance;

WHEREAS, the Port of Manila is considered as the Philippines' most important port not only in terms of revenues it generates but also because of its being the premier international gateway to the country;

WHEREAS, the past six (6) months have witnessed how port congestion at the Port of Manila, specifically, the Manila International Container Terminal (MICT) and the South Harbor, have tremendously disrupted industries and businesses not only in Metro Manila but across the country, and how it has highlighted the important and crucial role that the government has to play in mitigating its impact and finding immediate solutions;

WHEREAS, the drastic restriction in the movement of trucks transporting cargoes in and out of the Port of Manila because of the shortened operating window of trucks due to truck ban imposed by certain Local Government Units resulted in the abnormal movement, accumulation and piling up of cargoes and eventually severe port congestion;

WHEREAS, there is a need to adopt measures to immediately and effectively address the existing port congestion in the Port of Manila in order to avert further damaging effects to the country's economy, and also to put in place a mechanism that will immediately address future similar situations; and

WHEREAS, the Port of Batangas and the Subic Bay Freeport are not only ports of closest proximity to the Port of Manila but have the required capacity to handle export and import cargoes in terms of equipment, manpower and berth.

NOW THEREFORE, I, BENIGNO S. AQUINO III , President of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. EXTENSION OF THE PORT OF MANILA . It is hereby declared that whenever there is congestion in the Port of Manila, or in case of emergency