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## **PCC, BCDA sign partnership for cooperation in JVs, PPP deals**

The Philippine Competition Commission (PCC) has inked a partnership with the Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA) recently in Clark Freeport, Pampanga sealing a harmonized campaign to foster competition amid big-ticket developments behind the government's massive infrastructure push in the country.

The signing of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) led by PCC Chairman Arsenio M. Balisacan and BCDA President and CEO Vivencio B. Dizon has marked the deepening of ties and cooperation between both agencies.

Both agencies agreed to provide access to information relative to mergers, acquisitions, and other transactions involving qualified public-private partnership projects, which may be covered under the Philippine Competition Act. The PCC and BCDA also agreed to coordinate and refer concerns related to competition arising from the different projects undertaken by BCDA. It also opened avenues to organize activities and workshops for both agencies.

The PCC takes on the partnership to improve their regulatory foothold on merger review by active cooperation with different agencies. With BCDA, the antitrust commission promotes competition as the state developer modernizes areas and converts its military reservation areas into economic zones or business districts.

To date, the PCC has approved the joint ventures between the BCDA and MTD Capital Bhd. in developing National Government Administrative Center in New Clark City; BCDA and Primelux Holdings Development Inc. in developing Bonifacio East in Taguig; BCDA and the Consortium of Primewater Infrastructure Corp., Tahal Consulting Engineers, Ltd., Prime Asset Ventures, Inc. and MGS Construction, Inc. for New Clark City's water source; as well as BCDA and Meralco-Marubeni Consortium for the power source in New Clark City.

The MOA with BCDA is the 15th MOA signed initiated by the PCC. The Commission officials and staff also visited a part of the National Government Administrative Center in New Clark City, which was one of the approved transactions between BCDA and its joint venture partners.



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