

Cities-Business Roundtable Discussion with

ABBY BINAY

Mayor of the City of Makati

15 August 2019 | Ayala Boardroom, Ayala Tower One, Makati City



For more photos, visit: <http://bit.ly/MBCAbbyBinayPhotos>

On August 15, MBC held a special roundtable with Makati City Mayor Abby Binay, the third meeting of the MBC-led cities-business partnership project. This is an MBC initiative that aims to open a high-level dialogue between city government leaders and key players in the business community. The objective of this meeting is to explore public-private projects (PPP) to improve LGU competitiveness, ease-of-doing-business, and infrastructure.

CRITICAL ISSUES

1. Ease of Doing Business:

» Makati City has established a one-stop-shop that streamlines applications and renewals for all businesses, surpassing their own 15-minute target. The adoption of new technology has assisted the city in promoting ease of doing business, but the requirement to submit original documents and other regulations limit the city's ability to completely innovate the system.

2. Traffic Congestion and the Lack of Parking Spaces:

» Residents in the city have complained about road congestion due to the lack of parking facilities, particularly in Poblacion area.

3. Bridging Technology and Governance:

» The local government is concerned with the lack of proper training on new technology among its employees.

PROPOSALS/PLANS

1. Makati City aims to be a smart city by 2025, and improve public services through innovation.

» The local government has initiated the Makatizen App and the Makatizen Card, and has established a PPP contract for the setup of fiber optics in the entire city to interconnect with public health centers, hospitals, and even its public CCTV cameras.

» Mayor Binay shared plans to upgrade the infrastructure and technology of Makati City's command center, to build a solar-powered fire station, and to use its Geographic Information System (GIS) in tax mapping to improve tax collections.

» The city is adopting health innovations in partnership with private hospitals. It procured a digital mammogram, a portable x-ray, and improved its eye centers. It introduced a free anti-rabies vaccination and microchipping program, the first in Asia, to ensure the city is rabies-free.

2. The local government plans to finish the Makati Intra-City Subway, the first PPP locally initiated subway, by 2025 to ease traffic congestion.

» The subway will create 10,000 jobs, address traffic issues within the city and its peripheries, and interconnect the city's government facilities for the public's convenience.

» Mayor Binay will construct the subway underground to avoid disruption, and establish commercial areas above it for businesses.

3. Mayor Binay intends to boost the city's safety and disaster preparedness.

» The local government has purchased

a 56-meter ladder fire truck to reach higher floors of buildings during emergencies. The high-tech fire truck is also able to detect a building's layout to better determine fire exits.

» Instead of training barangay officials, Mayor Binay will conduct disaster preparedness training for residents.

» An additional 1,000 people were hired into the Makati police force to be deployed throughout the city, ensuring 24/7 safety.

4. The city plans to upskill its students and digitalize its educational system.

» Mayor Binay will partner with private companies to enhance students' knowledge on artificial intelligence, shifting the educational curriculum towards digital technology.

◊ Angkas offered to board students as part-time workers, and train them for free to become digital entrepreneurs.

5. The local government aims to strengthen the city's human capital.

» Mayor Binay expressed interest in investing and participating in business incubators to provide training and development for start-ups. ■

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