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SBMA security officer to receive "Pagasa" Award from CSC

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT — A security officer of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA-LED) will be one of the national awardees in this year's search for outstanding public officials and employees by the Civil Service Commission (CSC).

Joel Viray, who holds the position of Security Officer III at the SBMA Law Enforcement Department (LED), will receive the CSC's "Pagasa" Award at the Malacañang Palace during the celebration of the 108th anniversary of the Philippine Civil Service, according to an announcement from CSC Chairman Ricardo L. Saludo.

The Pagasa award is conferred by the CSC to an individual or group who have made outstanding contributions resulting from an idea or performance that directly benefited more than one department of the government.

Two other award categories are included in the search: the "Lingkod Bayan" award for achievements with national impact on public interest, security and patrimony; and the "Dangal ng Bayan" award for extraordinary acts and exemplary ethical behavior in public service.

Viray won the Pagasa award under the individual category along with two municipal mayors, a college president, the general manager of a water utility firm, and a refinery officer from the Central Bank. The six winners were selected from a field of 11 semi-finalists.

Prior to the Malacañang ceremony, Viray and other finalists from Central Luzon will be feted by the CSC Region III office in a recognition rites at the King's Royal Hotel & Leisure Park in Bacolor, Pampanga on September 10.

According to the CSC announcement, the SBMA security officer earned the Pagasa award for his "dynamism and dedication in his work, which led to the improvement of security systems and processes" in the Subic Bay Freeport.

Due to the enhanced operational efficiency and streamlined accreditation program initiated by Viray, the SBMA also generated savings amounting to P1.2 million, the CSC citation said.

SBMA officials, meanwhile, expressed pride for Viray's selection as a Pagasa awardee and pointed out that the security officer has been named the first SBMA Employee of the Year when the agency started its annual search for outstanding workers in 2006.

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"He's really an innovative and dedicated law enforcement officer, with numerous achievements already spanning several years," said SBMA Administrator Armand Arreza.

"The whole SBMA is proud of Joel's winning the CSC award. This only confirms that the Subic Freeport produces workers who are the pag-asa (hope) of this country, not only in economic productivity but also in public service," Arreza added.

Viray, who rose from the ranks since starting out as Security Guard III in 1992, was cited by the SBMA for the accreditation by the Philippine National Police of the SBMA Law Enforcement Academy (LEA), as well as its training staff and curriculum.

"This obviated the need for LED personnel to go to Camp Crame in Manila or Camp Olivas in Pampanga for the training required in the renewal of their security guard licenses," said SBMA deputy administrator for administration Robert Martinez, who chaired the SBMA search committee that endorsed Viray for the CSC award.

Considering that the SBMA employs around 1,000 security officers, the aggregate personnel savings due to Viray's project amounted to some P1.2 million, aside from other incidental costs for transportation and board and lodging.

Martinez added that Viray has also been commended for initiating the development of systems for the screening and recruitment of LED personnel, personnel award and commendation, and a mutual relief program for security officers.

He also contributed in the development of the LED's standard operating procedures manual, and drafted and taught several courses on security and law enforcement for law enforcers at the Subic Bay Freeport. (30)