

# Effects of Importation to the Economic Development of Batangas Province, Philippines

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**Abstract** - *No country can be self-sufficient, every country is determined to import but as for everyone know that just like the rest, importations have two sides, the positive and the negative. The study aimed to determine the effects of importation to the economic development of Batangas Province, Philippines. The study used descriptive method and documentary analysis to evaluate the volume of importation entering the Port of Batangas from 2014-2016. The respondents of this study are residents of Batangas Province, specifically, 100 residents near the vicinity of Port of Batangas and 100 small and medium entrepreneurs and establishment owners selling imported products. Result showed that the common articles or commodities that enter Port of Batangas are those oil and non-oil products which has the greatest volume of importation in the latter years specifically years 2014 to 2016. Majority of the respondents agreed most that importations contribute to facilities used for Customs purposes specifically Port of Batangas. On the other hand, most of the respondents agreed that importation results to higher cost value of goods due to high levied tariffs and taxes which affects the economy negatively. Most of the respondents fall on the age bracket of 26-35 years old, male, single and with an average annual income of 150,000 below. The responses differ significantly and based from the post hoc test conducted, 18 to 25 years old and those who have annual income of 150,000 – 250,000 have higher assessment on the positive effects while those males with the same annual income have higher assessment on the negative effects. A strategy was proposed to address the importance of the continuity of improvement in the Province of Batangas in terms of economic development through good importation status.*

**Keywords:** *Importation, Port of Batangas, Economic Development*

## INTRODUCTION

Imports provide countries with access to goods and services from another nation. Without imports, a country would be limited to the goods and services within its own borders and since no country can be self-sufficient, every country is determined to import but as for everyone's knowledge, importations have two sides, the positive and the negative.

A balance of trade signifies a balance of import and export, now the challenge is how importers may find out if a country's trade is whether balanced or off balanced. Determining the positive and negative effects of importation will help importers know the trade status of a country, therefore, this study aims to determine the positive and negative effects of importation.

In most countries, international trade and importing goods represent a significant share of the

Gross Domestic Product (GDP) wherein GDP is the best way to measure a country's economy that is why importation plays a very relevant role in the economy of the Philippines but high level of imports can injure the domestic industries and distort the nation's balance of trade and devalue a country's currency [1].

To be able to protect the domestic industries, importations of goods are levied with duties and taxes to prevent those goods to be sold at cheaper prices and in turn those duties and taxes collected become the government's revenue and funds used for the betterment of the country.

Customs Modernization and Tariff Act Sec 400 states that all goods imported into the Philippines shall be entered through a customs office at a port of entry, or may be admitted to or removed from a free zone as defined in this act, as the case may be [2]. Progress in economy in the province of Batangas continued to rise

because of the affluence of industrialization from favorable economic climate and strategic location which are vitalizing variables of progression. The Port of Batangas acted as the bridge to the development of its province for it provided the beginning of a refined bond in international bodies and trade. The port served as the alternative port of Manila North Harbor because it facilitated the efficient trade of products to and from the island provinces. Batangas pier, being the key port in CALABARZON region, and the growth center in the region, contributed highly to the establishments of businesses in the Central Business District and several operational industries [3]. Batangas Container Terminal is operated by ATI or the Asian Terminals Inc., and kept vital goods on track for major industries in South Luzon and supported the drive of the government in disseminating economic activities outside National Capital Region which resulted to a stable and sustained role as key trade enabler [4].

For the record, importation in port of Batangas has increased twice from year 2016 – 2017. In the year 2016, motor vehicles had a total volume of importation of 42,485,605 kilograms (kgs), crude oil of 447,050,890 kgs, petroleum products of 240,353,304 kgs, chemicals of 30,269,702 kgs, and others of 740,818,475.25 kgs with a total of 1,500,977,976.25 kgs. In the early March of 2017, the volume of importation of motor vehicle was 122,628,127 kgs; crude oil was 208,573,000 kgs; petroleum products were 61,259,202 kgs; chemicals were 13,668,040 kgs; and others were 23,505,405 kgs; with a total of 429,633,774 kgs.

This study will bridge the gap of knowing the effects of importation as to how these affect the Batangas province economically. By analyzing the volume of importation and assessing the responses of the participants, the result will be an indication whether the volume of importation in Batangas is sufficient in making the residents aware of such positive or negative effects.

The researchers undertook this study because they see importation as an instrument of economic and living standard growth. The topic "Effects of Importation to the Economic Development of the Province of Batangas" will give benefit to the researchers since they are future customs brokers who will undertake such cargo handling and importations someday. The research will firmly develop their knowledge about the trend of the volume of importation from a decade to present and the effects of these to the economic growth of their home province. In this regard, this topic is important to the

participants for they will reflect on the results of evaluation with their roles as importers, entrepreneurs, and consumers, such will result to awareness of their impact, to the stakeholders (importer, entrepreneurs, consumers) for they will be much more knowledgeable regarding the effect of their activities to the society. The researchers also open this study for improvement, for use as basis, and foundation of data that can be of use by customs students and future researchers.

## **OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

The study aimed to determine the effects of importation to the economic development of Batangas province. Specifically, to present the volume of importation in the Port of Batangas for the year 2014-2016; to describe the profile of the respondents in terms of age, gender, civil status, and annual income; determine the effects of importation to the province's economic development; test the significant difference on the effects of importation when grouped according to profile; and propose strategies to enhance the positive effects of importation.

## **METHOD**

### **Research Design**

The researchers used the descriptive method and documentary analysis to evaluate the volume of importation entering the Port of Batangas from 2014-2016. This method is befitting to this study because it involves collection of data to answer questions concerning the status of the port. The term descriptive is self-explanatory and procedural synonymous to: write on, describe, and depict. Thus, this is a type of research that mainly concerns describing the nature and degree in detail of the current situation [5].

### **Participants of the Study**

The respondents of this study were residents of Batangas Province, specifically; 100 residents near the vicinity of Port of Batangas and 100 small and medium entrepreneurs and establishment owners selling imported products. A total of 200 respondents were selected based on their interest to participate in the study and their experience as business enterprise.

### **Instrument**

Adopted questionnaires were utilized as the main data gathering instrument of the study by the researchers and document analysis for data gathering. The questionnaire was divided into two parts. The first part of the questionnaire is about the positive effects

of importation in the economic development of the province of Batangas which has been the tool to identify at what standard and status does importation affect the province, while the second part is composed of negative effects of importation with the Cronbach alpha value of 0.781, which implies that the instrument has good internal consistency and reliable for use. The questionnaire was adopted from the research studies of Datingunoo (2012) and Villanueva (2016).

**Procedure**

The researchers constructed questionnaires as a guide for the research and distributed it to the residents near the vicinity of barangay Sta. Clara where the Port of Batangas is located and to medium entrepreneurs and establishment owners selling imported products. The researchers successfully retrieved all the questionnaires within a week of distributing and collecting; the researchers then, tabulated the data and passed it to the statistician. Afterwards, the statistical output of each table was interpreted by describing, and supporting it with appropriate related literature and information.

**Data Analysis**

After the retrieval of answered questionnaires, the responses were tallied, tabulated, and analyzed. Different statistical treatments were used to determine the volume of importation and the effects of importation to the economic development of the

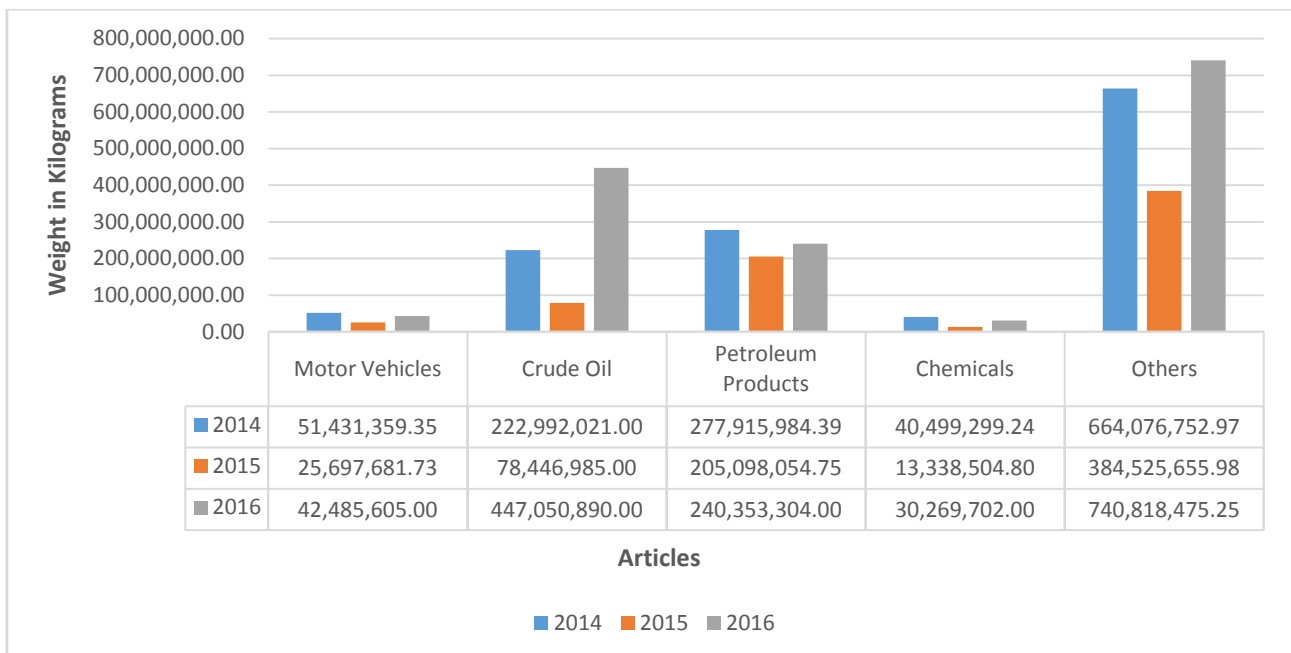
province. Frequency and percentage distribution were used to determine the volume of importation and Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) was used to test the hypothesis of the study. The given scale was used to interpret the result of the data gathered: 3.50 - 4.00 = Strongly Agree (SA); 2.50 – 3.49 = Agree (A); 1.50 – 2.49 = Disagree (D); 1.00 – 1.49 = Strongly Disagree (SD).

**Ethical Consideration**

One major ethical consideration was to ensure that respondents’ anonymity is protected throughout the analysis process. Official letter to the respondents was attached to each questionnaire stating the purpose of the researchers and the utmost confidentiality of their responses. The researchers also formally contacted the Bureau of Customs to gather information relating to the volume of importation in the Port of Batangas. The researchers also administered the research questionnaires personally, so that the confidentiality of information provided for the study would be maintained.

**RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

Figure 1 shows the importation in the Port of Batangas and this clearly shows the volume of importation from the period 2014-2016. The volume of motor vehicles, crude oil, petroleum products, chemicals, and others which got lower in the year 2015-2016 from the past year 2014-2015, and increased again in 2016-2017.



**Figure 1. Volume of importation in Port of Batangas for the period 2014-2016**

According to Amadeo [1], imports are goods and services from the foreign country bought by the residents of a domestic country. Residents are locals or citizens. It does not make a difference what the imports are or how they are sent. They can be delivered, sent by email, or even hand-conveyed in individual gear on a plane. In the event that they are delivered in a foreign country and sold to local residents, they are imports. Each one is a customer. The things one purchases each day make a demand that keeps organizations beneficial and enlisting new laborers. There are ways that make imports increased like mechanical and physical especially in use with the technology as of in modern generation. This could be the second stage in the supply chain which includes commodities or components. It can make the products more power-driven and efficient even to the neighboring countries.

**Table 1. Percentage Distribution of the Respondents' Profile**

Profile	Category	f	%
<b>Age</b>	18-25 years old	81	40.50
	26-35 years old	87	43.50
	36 years old and above	32	16.00
<b>Gender</b>	Female	84	42.00
	Male	116	58.00
<b>Civil Status</b>	Single	158	79.00
	Married	42	21.00
<b>Annual Income</b>	Below P150,000	107	53.50
	P150,001-P250,000	69	34.50
	P250,001-P350,000	21	10.50
	P350,001-P500,000	2	1.00
	Above 500,000	1	0.50

Table 1 presents the percentage distribution of the respondents' profile. It can be observed from the table that most of the respondents are within the age bracket of 26-35 with the percentage of 43.50%. However, the least respondents are aged 36 and above with the percentage of 16.00%. This shows that most of the consumers around establishments with foreign/imported articles for sale, and transacts with are mid adults, because they are more aware of the effects of these to their personal lives. According to Dvorkin [6], most of the people are looking for cheap products or those that are cost lesser than its actual amount. For example, a mobile phone is cheaper but having the same aspects to the expensive ones has a better market. The result of this situation shows where foreign goods compete or supplement local production.

In terms of gender, most of the respondents are male, having a frequency of 116 or 58.00% rather than female which has a frequency of 84 or 42.00%. It implies that males are more often consumers of imported products. Based on the Nielsen Shopper Trends 2017 survey, males now increasingly dominate 46% of shopping groceries thus, the growing number of men doing grocery shopping to the openness and gender sensitivity of millennial husbands is increasing.

The result also reveals that more of the respondents are single with a frequency of 158 or 79.00% and there are 42 respondents who are married having 21.00%. It shows that the singles often consume and have more time in spending that they can see how importation affects their personal and even social lives.

**Table 2. Positive effects of importation to economic development of Province of Batangas**

Indicators	WM	VI	Rank
1. Contribute to facilities used for Customs purposes specifically Port of Batangas	3.56	SA	1
2. Higher generation of revenue through levied taxes on goods imported	3.48	A	3.5
3. Consumer wide selection of goods to satisfy their wants and needs	3.51	SA	2
4. Lower freight/ transportation costs improving market of port in encouraging importers	3.27	A	10
5. Effective basis of improvement for domestic markets for innovation and remodeling of local goods with corresponding imported goods	3.42	A	6
6. Escalate status of job employment in terms of labor in production firms	3.47	A	5
7. Increased resources of entrepreneurs/sellers in selling imported articles in terms of retailing and reselling	3.40	A	8
8. Quality products are readily available in outlets in Batangas province	3.48	A	3.5
9. People tend to study related courses in managing imports/port activities i.e business trade and management, customs administration	3.39	A	9
10. Importations result to societal active participation in trade seen through malls and exchange firms	3.41	A	7
<b>Composite Mean</b>	<b>3.44</b>	<b>A</b>	

Table 2 presents the positive effects of economic development of the province of Batangas. The composite mean of 3.44 indicates that the respondents agreed on the enumerated effects. Among the items cited, contribute to facilities used for Customs purposes specifically Port of Batangas, consumer wide selection of goods to satisfy their wants and needs, higher generation of revenue through levied taxes on goods imported, and quality products are readily available in outlets in Batangas province obtained the highest weighted mean score of 3.56, 3.51, and 3.48 respectively.

With a mean score of 3.56, respondents agreed that importations contribute to facilities used for Customs purposes specifically Port of Batangas. If a business is successful, therefore it will give them the chance to innovate, larger volume of revenue is tantamount to higher distribution of budget in terms of improvement and maintenance. Now, imports are indisputable trend of making the standard of living rise. According to Ambareesh [7], there are advantages of importing which can be great contribution to customs facilities and purposes of one's place. Import helps access the newest and best technologies and services that in this modern generation make the transaction faster and applicable for the benefit of the consumers.

Consumer wide selection of goods to satisfy their wants and needs also obtained highest weighted mean with a score of 3.51. The researchers see that imports are seen essential to economy and that is known and tested by most of the people to satisfy their needs and wants and that it gives wider array of choices to consume. According to Delany [8], this is highly attractive to the consumers when it is not available to the domestic market. Those goods which are manufactured from different countries especially United States were produced more inexpensively and efficiently so therefore it is sold for a lower price. So these opportunities help to invest in the increase of sale and enhancing one's image in a world marketplace and raise profitability.

Higher generation of revenue through levied taxes on goods imported and quality products are readily available in outlets in Batangas province tied on the mean score of 3.48. Every type of article entering any ports in the Philippines is levied with taxes that will be collected by specific government agencies depending on such article, but the general tax applicable to all importations are customs duties which is the main source of the revenue of Bureau of Customs. According to Gassebner [14], levying tariff

duties on goods that are imported as a generating of revenue to protect cheaper goods and to support their local industries and its domestic output. Some countries can produce goods or products that are low cost due to decreasing of costs, wages and prices. Decreasing the price has a difference and enable other countries to keep up with produces of the third countries. Quality products are readily available in the outlets of Batangas' province. Importation opens opportunities more than what is seen. Larger importation results to production or manufacture activities that require physical labor or work giving contractual jobs to locals which help them in their lives. According to Rabe (2016), Batangas City is recognized as the "Industrial Port City of CALABARZON", one of the urbanized and fastest due to the improvement in their employment and quality of services, making it easier with a great transportation and accessible roads that connects to near markets. Batangas produces products with higher-value by various techniques with the assistance of local or national government entities. The people of Batangas City are its primary asset. Being dependable, adaptable and committed to world class services. Batanguenos are extensive skilled workers, producing quality products available in the province to be advantageous to major global companies that give business in the adjoining municipalities and the city.

However, other items were rated agree only and increased resources of entrepreneurs/sellers in selling imported articles in terms of retailing and reselling (3.40), people tend to study related courses in managing imports/port activities i.e business trade and management, customs administration (3.39) and lower freight/ transportation costs improving market of port in encouraging importers (3.27) got the lowest rank.

Respondents agreed that importation results to an increase of resources of entrepreneurs/sellers in selling imported articles in terms of retailing and reselling (3.40). Many locals rely on trade business, as the port enables more business through importation, this will vastly increase the resources of these people in innovating their business ventures.

People tend to study related courses in managing imports/port activities i.e business trade and management/customs administration got a mean score of 3.39. People involved in such importation influences their environment, affiliations, acquaintances, or even family members. As part of the business, it is a responsibility to value the continuance and life of the trade one has been to, so influencing is one major way to react with that matter.

Lower freight/ transportation costs improving market of port in encouraging importers (3.27) got the lowest rank. They unthread different factors of the price regarding its base price, delivery fee, freight cost, and other fees related. Lower freight rates attract importers/exporters because they will pay less to freight shipping lines which will result to higher demand of importation. According to Delaney [8], one reason to consider in importing is the price. There are numerous variations between nations including the smallest benefit it can give to one's economy. United States, China and other developing countries pay a lot for the freight and inefficiency and According to Todd [9] shippers are providing low container prices on major trades by adjusting and lowering service levels and reliability. Lower freight or transportation costs are an advantage to the importers and can increase business to extent. They are lowering their costs and at the same time the service level is decreasing. There is connection between lower freight and the decrease of quality service given by the carriers. Reducing costs of operation can affect making of money by the service providers and insufficiency of the offered quality services.

Table 3 presents the negative effects of economic development of the province of Batangas. The composite mean of 3.06 indicates that the respondents' agreed on the enumerated effects. Among the items cited, higher cost value of goods due to high levied tariffs and taxes, higher dependency to foreign countries in sufficing needs and wants, and negative impact of imports to the gross domestic product obtained the highest weighted mean score of 3.24, 3.12, and 3.11 respectively.

Among the negative effects of importation, higher cost value of goods due to high levied tariffs with a weighted mean of 3.24 make it as a factor that brought a negative impression to the economy. Business must increase the prices to return the money to be able to pay the taxes and the prices of the products. As stated by Hartman [15], one main effect of levied tax on imports

will increase the price of consumer goods. It happens because businesses pay more for the products they buy, including those office furnishings, machinery and computer equipment. The higher cost of doing business results into higher prices for their new products.

However, higher dependency of foreign countries in sufficing needs and wants with a weighted mean of 3.12 may be a factor that may injure the local industry, people's natural mindset towards foreign goods are higher quality and more durable than that of the products which are locally made which is the reason why they tend to patronize foreign goods. According to Delaney [8] imports are highly attractive especially if some of the needs and wants of the people are not available in a local market. Some goods are made with a lower amount compared with the local that making it more essential. This opportunity can be the cause of an increase in sale and enhancing one's image in a world marketplace making it more efficient and a way of creating jobs.

There are also negative impacts of imports to the GDP (3.11). Although it has a positive effect, there can be also a factor that can contribute to a country for not doing well and may lessen the capability of the improvement of its development. Ross [10] noted that gross domestic product gauge the value of finished goods and services of a country's economy. One factor of a country's GDP is the balance of trade, so if the local consumers give more importance to the foreign products than what domestic producers can offer then there can be a trade deficit. GDP increases the total value of goods and services which the local consumers choose or buy.

On the other hand, imports represent an outflow of funds from a country since they are payments made by local companies (the importers) to overseas entities (the exporters), import distort balance of trade, and trade deficit result to province's underperformance obtained the lowest weighted mean having 3.00, 2.97, and 2.93 respectively.

**Table 3. Negative effects of importation to economic development of Province of Batangas**

Indicators	WM	VI	Rank
1. Higher dependency to foreign countries in sufficing needs and wants	3.12	A	2
2. Harms local markets due to growing foreign articles imported and sold to consumers	3.03	A	7
3. Imports distort balance of trade	2.97	A	9
4. Growing trade deficit result to harder time leveling the domestic currency vs. foreign currency	3.10	A	4
5. Increased valuation of import products that resulted to discouragement of exporters	3.07	A	6
6. Imports represent an outflow of funds from a country since they are payments made by local companies (the importers) to overseas entities (the exporters).	3.00	A	8
7. Negative impact of imports to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP)	3.11	A	3
8. Trade deficit result to province's underperformance	2.93	A	10
9. Discourage local markets due to high competition	3.08	A	5
10. Higher cost value of goods due to high levied tariffs and taxes	3.24	A	1
<b>Composite Mean</b>	<b>3.06</b>	<b>A</b>	

Imports also represent an outflow and also other items were rated agree only and imports represent an outflow of funds from a country since they are payments made by local companies. The researchers presumed that the respondents lacked knowledge about the meaning of capital or cash outflow that is why they were not able to rate it higher than other negative effects.

The more import can distort the balance of trade in one country making it more dependent to its neighboring country and may lower the value and production of the domestic producers. Murphy [11] noted that higher tariffs can divert trade distorting consumption leaving the balance of trade roughly different.

Lastly, trade deficit results to province's underperformance. One can determine that a country has trade deficit if the volume of imports exceeds the volume of exports therefore they can say that when a country imports more than it exports the country is not performing well and there is a big problem therein.

**Table 4. Difference of Responses on the Effects of importation to economic development of Province of Batangas When Grouped According to Profile**

	Positive			Negative		
	F-value	p-value	I	F-Value	p-value	I
Age	2.890*	.015	S	2.803	.018	NS
Gender	4.053	.008	NS	4.132*	.007	S
Civil Status	.864	.461	NS	.646	.586	NS
Annual Income	4.280	.001	S	3.044	.011	S

*Legend : Significant at p-value < 0.05; S- Significant; NS-Not Significant*

Based from the result, there was a significant difference on the positive and negative effects when grouped according to age (0.015) and (0.018) and annual income (0.001) and (0.011) since the computed p-values was less than 0.05 alpha level. This means that the responses differ significantly and based from the post hoc test conducted, 18 to 25 years old and those who have annual income of P150,001-P250,000 have higher assessment on the positive effects of importation to economic development of Province of Batangas. The age bracket comprises those who are fresh graduates and early starters in jobs generating this income bracket. This shows that the economic development due to the effects of importations is also based on their experiences and their job [12]. Annual income is affected by the inequality that influenced the income in the middle class. It provides historical and international context for the key factors affecting middle-class incomes: productivity growth, labor force participation, and income inequality according to Furman [13].

Based from the post hoc test, those who are male and earning P150,001 – P250,000 had higher assessment on the negative effects of importation to the economic development of the Province of Batangas. It is seen significant that those singles are aware of the negative effects of importation. The outcome which affects the standard of living of the residents may differ from those who are single and married. Furthermore, because each experiment differed with respect to design, sample composition and statistical methodology, the results of the different experiments are not directly comparable [13].

**Table 5. Proposed Plan of Action to Lessen the Negative Effects of Importation to the Economic Development of the Province of Batangas**

Key Results Area	Strategies	Persons Involved
Lower cost value of goods through lower tariff and taxes	Propose a plan to pair up w/ other countries to reduce rate of duty (Law of Reciprocity; International Agreements)	BOC, Commissioner, Secretary of Finance, and other respective authorities
Lower dependency to foreign countries in sufficing needs and wants	To improve promotions and advertisement resulting balanced trade to avoid domestic injury convincing locals that domestic products are of quality	Entrepreneurs, Social Media Platform
Positive impact of imports to the Gross Domestic Product	To make use of domestic products as tool alleviating social problems Social problems are rampant to society right now, so if locals see this as a way of helping, it will be popular	Community, Social Entrepreneurs, Youth
Trade sufficiency leveling domestic vs foreign currency	To encourage traders to export also. Trade deficit results to harder time leveling domestic currency from foreign currency	Exporters, Importers. Trade business
Encourage local markets even with high competition	To spearhead seminars about business ventures to encourage people even with a high competition	Local Importers, Local entrepreneurs, Youth

## CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The common articles or commodities that enter Port of Batangas are those oil and non-oil products which have the greatest volume of importation in the latter years specifically years 2014 to 2016. The outcome of the retrieved questionnaire showed that most of the respondents agreed most that importations contribute to facilities used for Customs purposes specifically Port of Batangas. On the other hand, most of the respondents agreed most that importation results to higher cost value of goods due to high levied tariffs and taxes affects the economy negatively. Most of the respondents fall on the age bracket of 26-35 years old, male, single and with an average annual income of 150,000 below. The responses differ significantly and based from the post hoc test conducted, 18 to 25 years old and those who have annual income of 150,000 – 250,000 have higher assessment on the positive effects while those males with the same annual income have higher assessment on the negative effects. A strategy was proposed to address the importance of the continuity of improvement in the Province of Batangas in terms of economic development through good importation status.

It is recommended that the Bureau of Customs may continue setting up guidelines and policies for the proper implementation and may provide ways to further increase the volume of importation both for oil and non-oil products. The local government may consider setting up affordable prices oil based commodities to improve growth of the industry to eliminate business bankruptcy. Philippine Ports Authority may continue to support the importers and industries to continuously improve the GNP growth rate of the province. The proposed strategies may be evaluated for related future proposals on the same type. These were formulated to tackle the sustainable development of the province of Batangas through importation. For the future researchers, the present study may serve as reference to have additional information on the Effects of Importation to the Economic development of the province.

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