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A SPECIAL *in-depth* ^{BusinessWorld} EDITION

ABOUT THIS ISSUE

2 020 HAS BEEN A ROUGH YEAR. The coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic has infected more than 50 million people worldwide and claimed the lives of more than one-and-a-half million as of November (and counting). The pandemic has also drastically affected economic activity, pushing firms to either suspend operations, close shop, or operate at partial capacity. Not even the country's largest corporations were exempted from the effects of the pandemic, if net losses and cutbacks in capital expenditures were any indication. Household spending — considered as the backbone of the Philippine economy — was not spared as it declined for the first time this year since 1985 amid reduced disposable incomes and increasing unemployment. For the first time in three decades, the Philippine economy plunged into a recession.


Moreover, the disruption in day-to-day operations has made it difficult for firms to comply with regulatory requirements. To give businesses more time to prepare and file their reports, the Securities and Exchange Commission has extended the deadlines on the submission of general information sheets and audited financial statements, as well as waiving supposed penalties for violations incurred in the previous months such as late and non-filing of reportorial requirements in line with Republic Act No. 11494 or the Bayanihan to Recover as One Act (also called Bayanihan II).

These developments have made the production of this year's edition of *BusinessWorld's* annual *Top 1000 Corporations in the Philippines* a challenging task, especially with regard to data collection. Due to the limited number of financial statements available, we have decided to move the *Top 1000's* publication date sometime in the first quarter of 2021 from the original release date of late November this year.

In its place is a "special edition" containing the top 200 consolidated corporations based on consolidated audited financial statements. In this list, the parent company and its subsidiaries are treated as though they are a single entity, and reports earnings on an aggregate basis. This is different from parent-only financial statements (the basis of the *Top 1000* list) wherein parent firms record only equitized earnings of its subsidiaries and associates.

Aside from the top 200 consolidated firms, the report also includes six feature stories. The cover story introduces the reader to the profile and summary performance of the top 200 and the outlook of these firms for the succeeding year. The second feature story discusses the outlook on the Philippine economy based on latest projections by financial institutions. The third article talks of the world's search for a vaccine and what the global economy needs to do while waiting for said vaccine. The fourth discusses current conditions in the workplace and what firms must do to manage the workforce in the so-called "new normal."

The next two articles talk about consumption. The first delves into the role millennials and "Gen Z" individuals play for firms that are planning their recovery strategies in the near term, while the second looks at how firms have adapted in selling their products through the online space and what this means for future sales.

We hope the information provided in this report may prove useful to the reader. 

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