

Construction roars back to life following 2017 slowdown

CONSTRUCTION bounced back last year to double-digit growth following a marked slowdown in 2017, thanks to robust spending by the public and private sectors.

Data from the Philippine Statistics Authority showed the sector's gross value added jumping by 14.9% to P618.29 billion in 2018 from the 5.1% expansion in 2017.

Investment in construction — as measured by the gross value in construction — amounted to P953.22 billion, up 13.6% last year from 5.8% in 2017. Of these, state-initiated spending accounted for around 27% at P254.99 billion, a 19.7% expansion from the previous year's 12.1% growth. Private infrastructure likewise rebounded at 11.5% (to P698.23 billion) from 3.8% (P626.19 billion) previously.

"The double-digit increase on both (public and private construction) was brought about by the implementation of government's Build! Build! Build! Infrastructure Program," the Construction Industry Authority of the Philippines (CIAP) said in its yearend report for 2018, referring to the government's flagship program.

"The Philippine is seen as one of the fastest growing construction markets in the world," CIAP added.

Construction firms included in *BusinessWorld's* latest *Top 1000 Corporations in the Philippines* posted an



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aggregate gross revenue of P229.53 billion, a 10.3% growth from a year ago. In 2018, twenty-nine firms made the cut from twenty-five in 2017.

Leading the pack was Ayala construction arm Makati Development Corp. (No. 29), posting a gross top line of P68.05 billion, up by 7.8%.

EEl Corp. (No. 131) was second with P20.25 billion in gross revenue, 48% higher from last year's P13.68 billion.

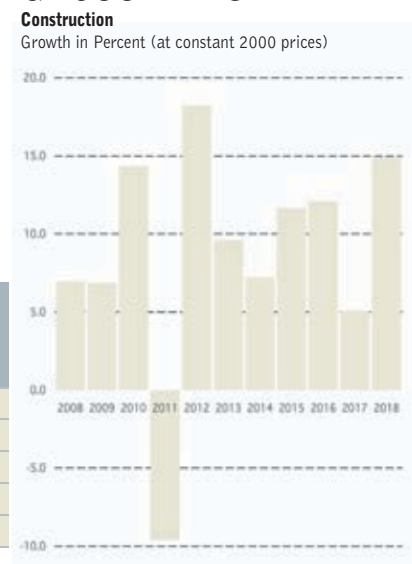
D.M. Consunji, Inc. (No. 165) followed with earnings of P16.39 billion, 6.9% higher from earnings in 2017.

Megawide Construction Corp. made P14.22 billion in 2018, claim-

ing the 197th position in the overall ranking.

Other top performers were Citra Central Expressway Corp. (No. 253); DDT Konstruct, Inc. (No. 301); DATEDM, Inc. (No. 340); and Shanghai Electric Power Construction Philippine Corp. (No. 371). — **Carmina Angelica V. Olano** ■

GROSS VALUE ADDED



SECTOR AT A GLANCE

YEAR	GROSS REVENUE % change	NET SALES % change	NET INCOME P billion	TOTAL ASSETS % change	TOTAL LIABILITIES % change	STOCK-HOLDERS' EQUITY % change	RETURN ON EQUITY	RETURN ON SALES	DEBT-TO-EQUITY RATIO
2014	11.1	11.3	5.90	23.9	25.9	18.3	0.1	0.0	2.9
2015	12.6	14.6	5.84	14.8	16.2	10.8	0.1	0.0	2.9
2016	11.3	11.5	11.52	3.7	1.4	10.1	0.2	0.1	2.6
2017	6.8	4.3	11.99	6.3	3.4	13.8	0.1	0.1	2.4
2018	10.3	10.9	10.00	17.6	19.9	11.9	0.1	0.0	2.7

Source: Financial statements from the SEC and companies included in the Top 1000