

SEC clears Prime Media's use of paid-in capital to offset deficit

PRIME MEDIA Holdings, Inc. said it had obtained approval from the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) for its equity restructuring plan.

In a stock exchange disclosure on Thursday, the company said the restructuring involves applying P253 million in additional paid-in capital to offset its deficit.

Prime Media's board approved the equity restructuring in 2024, utilizing the additional paid-in capital, it said.

Last year, the company announced plans to raise P531 million through private placements to support its expansion.

Its board approved the share subscriptions of Valiant Consolidated Resources, Inc. and

Cymac Holdings Corp., which will inject a total of P531 million.

Valiant Consolidated will subscribe to 75 million common shares at P2.95 each, amounting to P221.25 million, to be issued from Prime Media's unissued capital.

The company previously said Valiant Consolidated is set to subscribe to an additional 86.36 million common shares at P2.95 apiece, or P254.75 million, to be issued from the increased capital stock following a share-swap agreement with Golden Peregrine Holdings, Inc. stakeholders.

On Thursday, Prime Media shares closed at P1.75 apiece, down 12 centavos or 6.42%. —

Ashley Erika O. Jose

Okada Manila earns Asia Gaming Awards recognition

OKADA MANILA was named Best Integrated Resort and Best Sustainability Program at the 2024 Asia Gaming Awards, the company said on Wednesday.

The Asia Gaming Awards recognizes leading integrated resorts in the region, highlighting those "who set the standard for hospitality and entertainment in the region."

The Best Integrated Resort award recognizes Okada Manila's premium offerings, brand strength, and customer loyalty, the company said in a statement.

"With its iconic interiors, unique design, and state-of-the-art facilities, Okada Manila has become a favorite destination for both local and international guests," it said.

The company also received the Best Sustainability Program

award for its Green Heart initiative, which focuses on six key pillars: waste management, energy efficiency, water conservation, talent and community, safety, security and welfare, and responsible gaming.

Okada Manila recently secured its sixth consecutive Forbes five-star integrated resort rating and became the first integrated resort in the Philippines to earn the Forbes Travel Guide VERIFIED Responsible Hospitality badge.

"Okada Manila remains committed to continue to deliver exceptional experiences for our guests, while we also play a crucial role in driving forward sustainable tourism in the country," Okada Manila President and Chief Operating Officer Byron Yip said. —

Beatrix Marie D. Cruz

SM-backed NU expands footprint with Cebu, Las Piñas campuses

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY (NU), backed by the Sy family's SM Investments Corp. (SMIC), is expanding its campus network to 14 with planned openings in Cebu and Las Piñas later this year.

The expansion coincides with NU's 125th anniversary, SMIC said in an e-mail statement on Thursday.

Located within SM properties, the new campuses are expected to increase NU's total student enrollment to 85,000, according to SMIC.

"We've been expanding with the purpose of providing more access to quality education, which is core to the SM Group's commitment to social good," NU President and Chief Executive Officer Renato Carlos H. Ermita, Jr. said.

"For us, giving back means ensuring that excellence in education reaches more Filipinos, regardless of their background. The Sy family has always aimed for excellence at NU—whether



in academics, infrastructure, or sports," he added.

NU maintains an open admissions policy and invests in assessments to help senior high school graduates transition to college.

The university has earned a three-star rating from higher

education analyst Quacquarelli Symonds, with five stars in employability and four stars in teaching, social impact, facilities, and governance.

"We are focused on building international credibility for NU. This recognition from our

international peers is a testament to our commitment to our students and graduates," Mr. Ermita said.

NU is targeting nationwide expansion to 20 campuses by 2028.

Its existing locations include the main campus and the Nazareth School in Sampaloc, Manila, as well as sites in Mall of Asia, Pasay; Fairview, Quezon City; East Ortigas, Pasig; Calamba, Laguna; and Lipa, Batangas.

SM acquired majority ownership of NU in 2008 when the university was struggling with low enrollment after a 1998 fire destroyed its main building.

SMIC operates in retail, banking, and property, with investments in high-growth sectors.

For 2024, SMIC's net income rose 7% to P82.6 billion as revenue grew 6% to P654.8 billion.

On Thursday, SMIC shares gained 0.25% or P2 to close at P810. —

Revin Mikhael D. Ochave

Alsons profit up 11% at P2.53 billion in 2024

ALCANTARA-LED Alsons Consolidated Resources, Inc. (ACR) reported an 11% increase in net income to P2.53 billion in 2024, driven by higher electricity demand and stronger spot market prices.

"We are confident that our growth prospects will continue, fueled by the anticipated increase in power demand and our strategic focus on expanding our RES (retail electricity supply) portfolio," ACR Deputy Chief Financial Officer Philip Edward B. Sagun said in a statement on Thursday.

Mr. Sagun attributed the company's earnings growth to the sustained performance of

the 237-megawatt (MW) Sarangani Energy Corp. in Mindanao.

The company said the implementation of ancillary services agreements for Western Mindanao Power Corp. in Zamboanga and Mapadal Power Corp. in Iligan "played a vital role in bolstering the company's earnings."

In 2023, ACR completed and commenced operations of the 14.5-MW Siguil Hydropower Plant, its first renewable energy facility.

The company added that its new RES unit has secured major clients, including Holcim Philippines and Metro Retail Stores Group,

Inc., with a combined contracted capacity of 43 MW.

"We remain steadfast in our commitment to expanding our renewable energy portfolio, with several projects currently under development. This year, we are targeting to launch our first large-scale solar power project in Mindanao, marking a significant milestone in our sustainability strategy," Mr. Sagun said.

ACR, which describes itself as Mindanao's first independent power producer, operates five power plants with a combined capacity of 482.5 MW. —

In the photo: The 2024 Presidential Awardees for micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) from Kawayan Collective, Hey Success PH, Ai-She Footwear Fashion, Nelly Coffee and Tablea, Malagos Chocolate, Tropical Palm Herb Manufacturing, and Jolie's Bakeshop, with SM Supermalls Executive Vice-President for Marketing-SMSEs Pats Dy, AVP for MSMEs Royston Cabunag, and Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) Division Chief Cynthia Dela Cruz

SM for MSMEs' Wall of Champions honors Filipino entrepreneurial spirit

Celebrating the strength of 17,000+ thriving businesses



In a dynamic celebration of Filipino entrepreneurship, SM Supermalls proudly unveiled the micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) Champions' Wall, a visual tribute to the resilience, dedication, and excellence of the country's 17,000 MSMEs. Held at the SM Mall of Asia (MOA), the special event gathered distinguished guests to honor the 2024 Presidential Awardees for MSMEs, recognizing their invaluable contributions to the nation's business landscape.

A SYMBOL OF INNOVATION AND PERSEVERANCE

The MSME Champions' Wall stands as a symbol of innovation and perseverance, embodying the journey of Filipino entrepreneurs who continue to thrive despite challenges. Designed as a fusion of creativity and storytelling, the installation showcases the diverse industries and success stories that define the MSME sector.

HONORING THE 2024 PRESIDENTIAL AWARDEES

Gracing the occasion were key representatives from the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), SM Supermalls executives, and the private sector, along with the esteemed awardees. In his opening remarks, Jonjon San Agustin, Executive Vice-President for Marketing at SM Supermalls, emphasized the importance of providing platforms for MSMEs to grow, stating, "This wall is more than just an installation; it reflects the relentless spirit of Filipino entrepreneurs who drive economic growth and inspire innovation."

The highlight of the event was the formal recognition of the 2024 Presidential Awardees for MSMEs, individuals, and businesses that have demonstrated outstanding performance, innovation, and community impact. Some of the awardees shared their journey, underscoring the vital role that MSMEs play in job creation, industry growth, and national development.

The Medium Enterprise Awardee, Malagos Chocolate, offers award-winning Philippine-grown cacao.



SM SUPERMALLS' COMMITMENT TO MSME GROWTH

SM Supermalls remains committed to championing local businesses through initiatives such as the SM for MSMEs Program, which provides entrepreneurs with greater market

opportunities, business support, and nationwide visibility.

With this initiative, SM Supermalls continues to strengthen its support for MSMEs, reinforcing its commitment to being a true partner in their journey toward success. As the MSME Champions' Wall stands tall at SM MOA, it will serve as an enduring reminder of the



resilience, passion, and excellence of Filipino entrepreneurs.

For MSMEs who wish to join the program, visit msme.smsupermalls.com.

ABOUT SM SUPERMALLS

SM Supermalls, owned by SM Prime Holdings, is the leading mall developer and operator in the Philippines. As a staunch advocate for MSMEs, SM Supermalls is dedicated to helping Filipino entrepreneurs succeed. Join our thriving marketplace across 80+ malls nationwide. Visit www.smsupermalls.com/sm-for-msmes/ to download your MSME application or email us at customerservice@smsupermalls.com with your most innovative product and preferred location. Don't miss this opportunity to grow your business with SM Supermalls today!

The small enterprise finalist, Aise Fashion, crafts locally sourced espadrilles, empowering Persons with Disabilities (PWD) artisans.