

EEI transfers P164-M Tanza training facility to subsidiary

EEI CORP. has approved the transfer of its P164-million training facility in Tanza, Cavite, to its subsidiary EEI Training Academy Corp. through a tax-free property-for-share swap, a move aimed at consolidating the company's training operations.



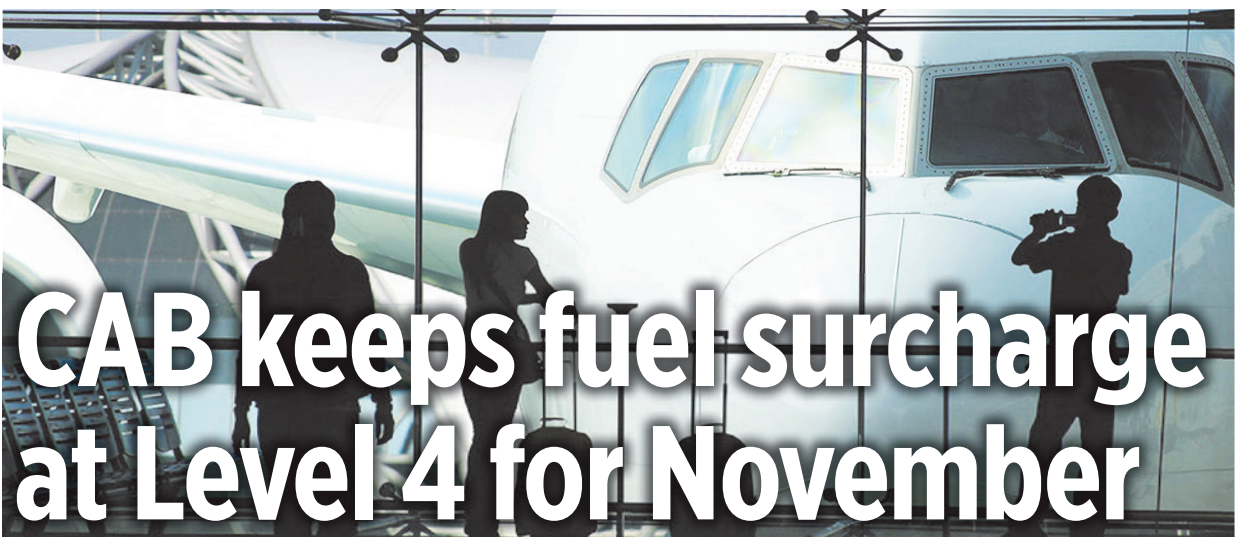
“The asset transfer is expected to enhance operational efficiency and reduce friction costs across the organization,” the construction firm said in a disclosure to the exchange on Tuesday.

The two-storey facility, completed in December 2024, supports both classroom learning and hands-on construction training. It offers courses in welding, electro-mechanical work, infrastructure, and managerial development.

EEI said the transaction, completed on Monday, will allow the academy to streamline its processes and strengthen its capacity to upskill workers for domestic and overseas projects.

In 2023, EEI announced plans to build the Tanza center to train engineers and staff in supervisory development, project management, and technical courses to support its growing project pipeline.

On Tuesday, shares of EEI fell by 4.76% or 15 centavos to close at P3 apiece on the stock exchange. — **Alexandria Grace C. Magno**



CAB keeps fuel surcharge at Level 4 for November

THE Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB) has retained the passenger fuel surcharge at Level 4 for November, keeping fuel charges steady for the fourth consecutive month.

At Level 4, the passenger fuel surcharge will range between P117 and P342 for domestic flights, and between P385.70 and P2,867.82 for international flights originating from the Philippines.

For airlines collecting fuel surcharges in foreign currency, the applicable rate for the period will be P57.57 per dollar, the CAB said in its advisory on Tuesday.

Fuel surcharges are adjusted based on movements in jet fuel prices, using the Mean of Platts Singapore (MOPS) benchmark.

For the week ending Oct. 17, the International Air Transport Association

(IATA) said jet fuel prices averaged \$89.56 per barrel, declining by 1.7% week on week.

On an annual basis, the global average jet fuel price dropped 9.6%, IATA said.

Jet fuel prices are projected to average \$86 per barrel in 2025, below last year's \$99 average, translating to about \$236 billion in fuel costs, or 25.8% of total airline operating expenses. — **Ashley Erika O. Jose**

Pure Water, Quadwater to acquire 28% stake in Coal Asia for P100 million

PURE WATER CORP. and Quadwater Corp. are buying the remaining shares of listed Coal Asia Holdings, Inc. for nearly P100 million.

In a regulatory filing on Tuesday, Coal Asia said Pure Water and Quadwater are set to acquire 11.33 billion common shares in the company, representing 28.32% of its outstanding capital stock.

The shares are priced at P0.0088 apiece, 14.2% higher than the previous acquisition price of P0.0077 per share.

Coal Asia disclosed last month that it had signed a deal with Pure Energy Holdings Corp. (PEHC) — a holding firm with interests in water and renewable energy — along with Pure Water and Quadwater, for the acquisition of a 71.68% stake in the company.

The deal involves the sale and purchase of 28.67 billion common shares.

PEHC is seeking to acquire 4.99 billion shares, representing 12.48% of the company's issued and outstanding capital stock.

Pure Water and Quadwater each bought 11.84 billion shares, equivalent to a combined 59.2% stake.

PEHC President Eric Peter Y. Roxas earlier said the transaction “provides the buyers with the opportunity to acquire a significant interest in the company.”

“It also facilitates the reallocation of shareholdings among the parties in a manner that supports their respective investment objectives,” he added.

Pure Water is a subsidiary of PEHC, while Quadwater is not affiliated with either PEHC or Pure Water.

In a separate stock exchange disclosure, NexGen Energy Corp., a subsidiary of Pure Energy, said the Department of Energy (DoE) had issued a certificate of authority (CoA) to its subsidiary, 5hour Peak Energy Corp.

The CoA gives 5hour the go-ahead to pursue pre-development activities for its proposed 100-megawatt-peak Caliraya Lake Floating Solar Photo-

voltic Power Plant in Lumban, Laguna.

The certificate will serve as the DoE's exclusive endorsement for the company to conduct reconnaissance and other pre-feasibility study activities, as well as to secure the necessary permits, certifications, and tenurial instruments.

Established in 2013, Pure Energy is an investment holding company primarily engaged in renewable energy generation and water system management and distribution. — **Sheldeen Joy Talavera**

Unified toll, from SI/1

Registration for the unified system is free and optional, with rollout for private vehicles beginning this month and fleet or corporate accounts expected by 2026.

“Years of consultation and cooperation with the DoTr (Department of Transportation) and the Toll Regulatory Board have finally led us to a unified system that responds to the real needs of our motorists,” Mr. Marcos said. “Our goal is a direct journey from north to south across Luzon — reducing unnecessary stress and delays.”

In a separate Facebook post, Acting Transportation Secretary Giovanni Z. Lopez said the system has undergone a stress test, which means it is fully functional, and problems will be blamed on defective stickers or low balance.

He said motorists might choose between Autosweep or EasyTrip as their preferred RFID provider to access major expressways.

He noted that motorists with two existing RFID stickers can opt in online to consolidate their accounts, then have the unused sticker removed — leaving only one, either Autosweep or EasyTrip.

Registration is free, optional and can also be done through walk-in centers. Motorists may also choose to keep their two separate RFID accounts.

“If you're already satisfied with your current RFID setup, there's no need to enroll. But for those who want to enroll and prefer to have only one account instead of two, you may do so,” Toll Regulatory Board Executive Director Jose Arturo M. Tugade said in Filipino at the launch.

ECONOMIC PRODUCTIVITY

Nigel Paul C. Villarete, a senior adviser on public-private partnerships at the technical advisory group Libra Konsult, Inc., said the unified RFID system would make travel faster and more seamless, noting that toll collection has long been a bottleneck, reducing expressway efficiency.

He added that RFID technology eliminates the need for vehicles to slow down or stop at toll gates, saving time and boosting both personal and national economic productivity.

“People don't realize that slowing down for toll collection or actually stopping actually eats a big chunk of otherwise continuous travel time, which translates to a reduction of both personal and national economic benefits,” he said via Viber.



During the launch, Mr. Marcos oversaw the online registration process by visiting RFID service providers Autosweep and Easy-Trip to demonstrate how motorists can opt into the unified system.

He also witnessed the simultaneous removal of redundant RFID stickers from vehicles that previously carried multiple tags, ensuring that each vehicle now operates with only one RFID for use across all tollways.

After choosing their RFID online, motorists are then directed to visit an authorized customer service center to remove the unselected RFID sticker to ensure system compatibility.

Once their preferred account is activated, motorists can load funds into it to enjoy seamless travel across all tollways in Luzon.

The unified RFID system will be accepted across all major toll expressways in Luzon, including the Skyway, South Luzon Expressway, STAR Tollway, Tarlac-Pangasinan-La Union Expressway, Ninoy Aquino International Airport Expressway, Muntinlupa-Cavite Expressway, North Luzon Expressway (NLEX), NLEX Connector, Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway, Cavite-Laguna Expressway, Manila-Cavite Toll Expressway and C5 Southlink.

The Toll Collection Interoperability Project, initiated in 2017, is a joint effort of the DoTr, Toll Regulatory Board, Department of Public Works and Highways and Land Transportation Office, in partnership with the SMC and Metro Pacific groups.

It aims to create a more efficient, convenient and connected tollway system that enhances mobility and reduces travel time for Filipino motorists across Luzon.

Hastings Holdings, Inc., a unit of the PLDT Beneficial Trust Fund subsidiary MediaQuest Holdings, Inc., holds a majority stake in *BusinessWorld* through the Philippine Star Group, which it controls.



SM Store opens in La Union, bringing the joy of shopping closer to the North

The North has even more to look forward to as SM Store in La Union officially opened its doors on Oct. 17, 2025, bringing the signature SM shopping experience, filled with style, convenience, and everyday excitement, closer to home.

More than just a retail destination, SM Store is a place where shopping becomes an experience, where every visit offers discovery, delight, and value. With its wide

Beyond retail, SM Store enhances the shopping experience through its unique offerings such as SM Green Finds, a curated selection of eco-friendly and sustainable products; the Personal Shopper service for a more convenient, curated way to shop; and the SM Gift Registry, which helps customers celebrate



range of products and services, SM Store caters to every lifestyle and occasion, making it the ultimate one-stop shop for families across generations.

At SM Store La Union, shoppers can find everything they need and more — from fashion and beauty to home essentials, gadgets, toys, and travel must-haves. The store carries a wide lineup of well-loved local and international brands, including a Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf outlet.

life's milestones with ease.

Opening week was made even more exciting with exclusive promos and rewards. Through the SMAC Grand Opening Blowout, shoppers earned up to 30 SMAC Points when they downloaded the SMAC&Shop App. SMAC members enjoyed 10% off plus an extra 100 SMAC Points, while those who paid using their SMAC Points received up to 200 points rebate. New SMAC members

also received a free Jelly Bag upon registration.

Customers also scored exclusive treats such as a 16-inch suitcase for only P599 with a

minimum P3,000 single-receipt spend, a Jisulife Pro 1 hand fan for only P1,299 with a P1,000 spend, and a folding wagon at P1,499 for a P2,000 purchase.

Special credit card promotions added to the thrill, with BDO, Metrobank, RCBC, and Chinabank cardholders enjoying exclusive discounts.

With its exciting lineup of brands, special services, and opening-day surprises, SM Store La Union brings a new wave

of shopping joy and everyday convenience to the North.

Because whatever you need, or want, you've got it at SM Store.

