

# The Daily Dispatch

January 09, 2018  
TODAY'S TOP NEWS

## SMC to start building SEMME in April

The travel time from Quezon City to Taguig City is expected to be cut to 35 minutes once concessionaire San Miguel Corporation (SMC) is done with construction of the 34-kilometer Southeast Metro Manila Expressway (SEMME). SMC unit Citra Intercity Tollways Incorporated will start building the expressway this coming April.

## Conglomerates investing more in fintech

Some of the country's biggest conglomerates are now pouring in more money in financial technology or fintech as more and more Filipinos embrace the digital way of life. The Sy-owned SM Group, the Aboitiz family's conglomerate, the Lucio Tan Group and the Gokongweis are just some of the businesses that are investing more on fintech.

## Okada faces 2nd lawsuit from Tiger Resort

Japanese gaming mogul Kazuo Okada is facing a second lawsuit from Tiger Resort Asia Ltd. for allegedly committing fraudulent acts. Tiger Resort is the operator of Okada Manila, the latest integrated casino resort to open at the Entertainment City in Parañaque.

## BCDA hires SG firm to help with Clark design

The Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA) and the Japan Overseas Infrastructure Investment Corp. for Transport and Urban Development (JOIN) have partnered with Surbana Jurong to develop the New Clark City project.

## DOF readies second tax reform bill

The Department of Finance (DOF) will submit to the Congress the second package of the government's Comprehensive Tax Reform Program (CTRP) this month after the first package was signed into law in December. President Rodrigo R. Duterte signed the Tax Reform for Acceleration and Inclusion into Republic Act 10963 last

## Philippine Stock Market Update



**Previous Close:**

8,745.12

**1 Yr Return:**

23.54%

**Open:**

8,758.96

**YTD Return:**

3.33%

**52-Week Range:**

7,123.33 - 8,858.07

**Source:**

Bloomberg

## Foreign Exchange

As of Jan. 08, 2018

US Dollar	Philippine Peso
1	50.166

## PDST-R2 Rates

As of Jan. 08, 2018

Tenor	Rate
1Y	3.0915
3Y	4.2816
5Y	4.7315
7Y	5.3136
10Y	5.6836
20Y	6.0443

## Daily Quote

"People who say it cannot be done should not interrupt those who are doing it."

--George Bernard Shaw

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## MORE LOCAL NEWS

### PH gets highest rank in 'energy sustainability'

In the 2017 Trilemma Index report of the World Energy Council (WEC), the Philippines has been ranked for the third time at the top tier when it comes to environmental sustainability one of global think tank's criteria on energy ranking, but the country's "balance index" dropped to number 70 from its higher 61st ranking in 2016.

### ALI: Takeover offer sent to Malaysia's MCT

ALI said on Monday that it had issued an unconditional mandatory takeover offer to the board of directors of Malaysian firm MCT Bhd to acquire the entire company. Last week, the Ayala-led property developer announced it acquired an additional 17.24 percent stake in MCT, bringing its total stake to 50.19 percent.

### PhilHealth to implement new premium rates

Health Secretary Francisco Duque 3rd announced on Friday that PhilHealth will raise the premium contributions of its members starting January. "We will raise PhilHealth's premium contribution, 0.25 percent, effective January 2018," Duque said during the Clean Forum held at the Manila Hotel.

### Metro Pacific completes due diligence on MRT 3

Metro Pacific Investments Corp. completed the due diligence for the takeover of Metro Rail Transit Line 3, Transportation Secretary Arthur Tugade said Monday. Tugade said the Department of Transportation was now evaluating the offer of MPIC, although he did not disclose the specific bid.

### Businessman acquires 9.9% stake in Phoenix

Top Direct Investments, a company owned by businessman Miguel Jose Valencia, acquired a 9.92-percent stake in Phoenix Petroleum Philippines Inc. through a special block sale valued at P2.13 billion. Phoenix Petroleum disclosed to the Philippine Stock Exchange Top Direct Investments acquired 142 million shares at P15 apiece.

### Megawide dives into water sector

Construction and infrastructure group Megawide Construction Corp. has teamed up with a unit of Japanese multinational conglomerate Toshiba to work on a P2-billion water reclamation engineering project for Maynilad Water Services Inc. in Las Piñas.

### PH now more 'financially inclusive'

The number of Filipinos with bank accounts has grown over the last five years, and the amount of cash each has deposited has also increased, but the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas believes there is more to be done to improve financial inclusion in the country.

## TODAY'S TOP ASIAN NEWS

### Jack Ma's debt giant grinds to a halt

After selling billions of dollars of debt backed by consumer loans last year, Chinese billionaire Jack Ma's Ant Financial is pausing such fundraising as the government steps up curbs on micro lending. The company hasn't sold any asset-backed securities since early December.

### AlphaConcepts raises \$200k in seed round

AlphaConcepts, a nine-month-old influencer marketing platform based in Hong Kong, has raised \$200,000 in seed funding from undisclosed angel investors, the company said. AlphaConcepts co-founder and CEO Irish Ong said, four angel investors from the tech and finance industry in Hong Kong participated in the round.

### Tempo Inti Media's \$7m rights issue attracts interest

One of Indonesia's largest media groups PT Tempo Inti Media Tbk is looking to raise Rp99.99 billion (nearly \$7 million) through the issuance of new shares. According to the prospectus, six strategic investors have shown interest and are willing to shell out Rp25 billion to absorb new shares issued by Tempo.

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## MORE ASIAN NEWS

### Alibaba leads \$2.75m investment in Citiesocial

Taiwanese e-commerce Citiesocial has raised \$2.75 million in a round led by the Alibaba Taiwan Entrepreneurs Fund. Other participating investors included CDIB Capital and existing investor Cherubic Ventures, which had backed its seed round in June 2016.

### VIG Partners acquires Youyoung for \$206m

VIG Partners, formerly known as Vogo Investment Group, has acquired Youyoung Industries, a local shoe fabrics maker for global sportswear brands, for 220 billion won (\$206 million). The Korean buyout firm announced on Tuesday it had made the acquisition through an SPV jointly set up with Youyoung founder and CEO Jung Ho-tae.

### JSW Infra-Srei to buy Sterling Port in Dahej

A consortium of JSW Infrastructure, a part of Sajjan Jindal's JSW Group, and Srei Infrastructure Finance Ltd is set to acquire the upcoming Sterling Port in Dahej from its lenders. The JSW-Srei combine has reached an agreement with lenders of Sterling Port, which includes Srei Infrastructure Finance, Andhra Bank and Corporation Bank.

### UBS looks to buy stake in China securities JV

UBS GROUP AG is in discussions to acquire a majority stake in its Chinese securities joint venture, Chief Executive Officer Sergio Ermotti said, as global banks rush to take advantage of Beijing's pledge to further open its financial markets.

## TODAY'S TOP GLOBAL NEWS

### \$1B valuation gives AUS its only tech unicorn

Canva, an Australian-based graphic design app, has raised \$40 million to become the country's only privately backed technology startup to be valued at \$1 billion. Sequoia Capital took part in the fundraising alongside existing investors Blackbird Ventures and Felicis Ventures.

### Cryptocurrencies are selling off

Bitcoin slumped, dragging down smaller rivals such as ether and litecoin, as concerns that regulators will tighten their grip on the market weigh on the the world's largest cryptocurrency. "News on the regulatory front is dragging down cryptos," said Gabor Gurbacs, director of digital-asset strategy at VanEck Associates Corp.

### Spanish bank eyes post-Brexit HQ in London

Spain's Alantra Partners SA is considering moving its headquarters from Madrid to London in a bet the U.K. capital will remain the center of European business and finance even after Brexit, according to two people with knowledge of the matter.

### Celgene to buy drugmaker impact for \$1.1b

Celgene Corp. agreed to buy closely held Impact Biomedicines for \$1.1 billion upfront to gain an experimental blood cancer treatment. The price could reach as much as \$7 billion over time if the drug reaches certain milestones. Under the agreement, Celgene will add as much as \$1.25 billion Impact's drug fedratinib reaches milestones

### GoPro cuts staff, considers selling company

GoPro announced Monday it will cut more than 20 percent of its staff and signaled it was willing to consider a sale following weak holiday-season sales. The camera and technology company said it would cut its workforce of 1,254 to fewer than a thousand.

## Economic Calendar

Date	Release
01.04.2018	PH: CPI YoY
01.04.2018	PH: CPI NSA MoM
01.04.2018	PH: CPI Core YoY
01.18.2018	PH: Budget Balance Php
01.23.2018	PH: GDP Annual YoY

Source: Bloomberg Economic Calendar