

# The Daily Dispatch

January 31, 2023  
TODAY'S TOP NEWS

## SMC set to bag P27b Cavite-Batangas Expressway

San Miguel Corp. is set to bag the P27-billion Cavite-Batangas Expressway Project, after the provincial government of Cavite said it did not receive a competitive proposal from other parties to challenge the conglomerate's offer.

## DTI discloses P629b leads in renewable energy proj.'s

The Department of Trade and Industry identified massive investments in the renewable energy sector in 2023 as more companies are transitioning to cleaner power sources. "As of Jan. 23, 2023, these leads are expected to generate investments worth P629 billion and generate 2,025 MW of power," Trade Secretary Alfredo Pascual said.

## PH banks kept credit standards unchanged in Q4

Banks in the Philippines kept credit standards mostly steady in the fourth quarter of 2022 and expect to continue the trend in the first quarter of 2023, results of the Fourth-Quarter 2022 Senior Bank Loan Officers' Survey show.

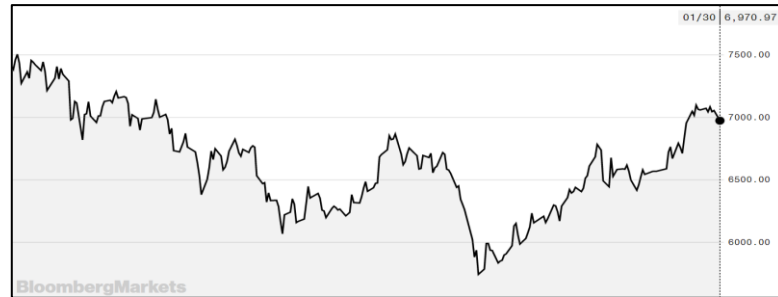
## More tie-ups eyed for SP New Energy

SOLAR Philippines Power Project Holdings Inc. is opening up its listed unit SP New Energy Corp. to more strategic partnerships with groups, which could be worth about P2.7 billion in private placements and asset-for-share swaps.

## DMCI, Unionbank to replace Megaworld, RLC in PSEi

CONSUNJI-led DMCI Holdings Inc. and Aboitiz-led Union Bank (UB) of the Philippines will be included in the PSE index (PSEi) starting Feb 6. DMCI and UB will be replacing Megaworld Corp. and Robinsons Land Corp., which will be booted out at the 30-company PSEi, based on the Jan to Dec 2022 index review of the PH Stock Exchange.

## Philippine Stock Market Update



Previous Close:

6,970.97

1 Yr Return:

-5.95%

Open:

6,935.67

YTD Return:

3.14%

52-Week Range:

5,699.30 - 7,552.20

Source:

Bloomberg

## Foreign Exchange

As of January 30, 2023

US Dollar	Philippine Peso
1	54.55

## BVAL Reference Rates

As of January 30, 2023

Tenor	Rate
1Y	5.404
3Y	5.555
5Y	5.822
7Y	5.970
10Y	6.079
20Y	6.447

## Daily Quote

"The beauty of love is that in giving it away, you are left with more than you had before."

-- David Simon

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## MORE LOCAL NEWS

### Cemex shares surge after P2.1-B tender offer plan

INVESTORS loaded up on shares in Cemex Holdings, Philippines, Inc. after its parent company announced an offer to acquire more shares in the local unit to solidify its stake. Data from the PSE show trading of the cement manufacturer's shares reached 421.70 million worth P473.93 million from Jan. 23 to 27.

### Monde Nissin to buy 15% stake in Figaro Coffee

MONDE Nissin Corp. is acquiring a 15% stake in Figaro Coffee Group, Inc. (FCG) for around P820.27 million in a move analysts see as helping expand the companies' business reach.

### Manila Water earmarks P37B for water treatment projects

MANILA WATER Co., Inc. announced on Thursday a P37.3-billion investment in its wastewater master plan, which covers the construction of treatment facilities and a sewer network across the Marikina River, San Juan River, Pasig River, and Laguna Lake.

### Peso rises to new 7-month high on GDP

THE PESO climbed to a new seven-month high against the dollar on Thursday as the Philippine gross domestic product (GDP) growth was above target in 2022. The local currency closed at P54.40 versus the greenback on Thursday, rising by 23 centavos from Wednesday's P54.63 finish.

### BSP's net income up in first 10 months of 2022

THE BANGKO SENTRAL ng Pilipinas (BSP) booked higher net earnings as of end-October 2022 amid gains from foreign exchange (FX) movements. The central bank recorded a net income of P87.92 billion in the first 10 months of 2022, up by 37.7% from the P63.86 billion it booked in the same period a year earlier.

### Cold chain industry sees 10% growth this year

The Philippine cold chain industry is expected to grow by as much as 10% this year as food importation will remain a key driver for its expansion, according to the Cold Chain Association of the Philippines (CCAP). "For 2023, at least 8% to 10% is already achievable," CCAP president Anthony Dizon said.

### Banks see stronger loan demand in Q1

Philippine banks see stronger loan demand from companies and households in the 1Q2023 despite the series of rate hikes by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP). Based on the BSP 4Q2022 Senior Loan Officers' Survey results, banks expect a net increase in overall loan demand both from corporate and household borrowers.

### Co's Keepers Holdings gets new brand

The Keepers Holdings Inc. of retail tycoon Lucio Co continues its acquisition spree, adding Island Mixers in its extensive brand portfolio. The Keepers, in a stock exchange filing, said it acquired cocktail mixer brand Island Mixers from Diageo Philippines Inc.

### Megawide to upgrade PITX

Infrastructure builder Megawide Construction Corp. is left with at least P1.5-bn from a fundraising program, but plans to use the bulk of the amount within the year to upgrade the Parañaque Integrated Terminal Exchange (PITX). Megawide has spent P2.77-bn or 64% of the amount it raised from preferred shares offering in 2020.

### SM Group to expand presence in provinces

The SM Group wants to expand in more regions across the Philippines to reach more communities, according to SM Investments Corp. president and CEO Frederic DyBuncio. DyBuncio said the listed conglomerate of the Sy family would continue to invest in areas that are "underserved and with great potential."

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## TODAY'S TOP ASIAN NEWS

### Samsung profit plunges, chip crash eats into earnings

SAMSUNG Electronics's quarterly profit tumbled, hurt by a sharp drop in demand for semiconductors as consumers spent less on electronic gadgets.

### Baidu to launch ChatGPT-style bot

BAIDU is planning to roll out an artificial intelligence (AI) chatbot service similar to OpenAI's ChatGPT, according to a person familiar with the matter, potentially China's most prominent entry in a race touched off by the tech phenomenon.

### HK seeks to revive crypto sector wrecked by FTX

Hong Kong is sticking with a plan to become Asia's digital-asset capital despite the industry's tarnished reputation, a stance drawing tentative interest from bruised crypto firms looking for paths to recovery. The city claims it will learn the lessons of a US\$2 trillion crypto market rout and a spate of global bankruptcies.

### Adani gets backing as UAE royals buy \$400mn shares

Abu Dhabi's International Holding Co. (IHC) will invest about US\$400 million in Adani Enterprises' follow-on share sale, voicing confidence in Indian billionaire Gautam Adani's business empire after almost US\$70 billion was wiped off its market value.

### Singapore's Sea to boost investments in Malaysia

Sea Limited, Singapore's largest consumer Internet company, has committed to expanding its investments in Malaysia, creating more than 2,000 jobs in the process. This was announced by Malaysia's Minister of International Trade and Industry Tengku Zafrul Aziz during his official visit to Shopee's headquarters in Singapore.

## TODAY'S TOP GLOBAL NEWS

### Gold prices flat, investors await Fed rate decision

GOLD prices were flat on Tuesday (Jan 31), as market participants held back from making large bets ahead of the US Federal Reserve policy decision. Spot gold held its ground at US\$1,922.26 per ounce, as of 0032 GMT. US gold futures were down 0.1 per cent at US\$1,921.40.

### US court rejects J&J bankruptcy strategy

A US appeals court on Monday shot down Johnson & Johnson's attempt to offload tens of thousands of lawsuits over its talc products into bankruptcy court. The ruling marked the first major repudiation of an emerging legal strategy with the potential to upend US corporate liability law.

### Philips to cut 6,000 more jobs

ROYAL Philips is cutting another 6,000 positions, or around 8 per cent of the total, as the maker of medical equipment is reducing expenses while wrestling with costly recalls of some of its consumer products.

### Renault agrees to lower Nissan stake

Renault agreed to lower its Nissan Motor stake, seeking to address a longstanding source of friction in their 2-decade alliance to better compete in an industry moving to electrification and automation. The partners will each retain a 15% cross-shareholding w/ Renault transferring the remainder of its stake into a French trust.

### Bed Bath & Beyond customers face empty shelves

Empty shelves, dated merchandise and sparsely populated stores. This is the scene in Bed Bath & Beyond locations across the United States as the once-mighty home goods chain heads towards bankruptcy in what could be the largest US retail collapse since Toys "R" Us.