

San Miguel eyes \$700 million from sale of international beer unit

by ZINNA B. DELA PEÑA
Philstar.com

FOOD and beverage conglomerate San Miguel Corp. is hoping to raise up to \$700 million from the sale of its international beer operations to San Miguel Brewery Inc. (SMB).

At the sidelines of San Miguel Properties Inc.'s annual stockholders' meeting last May 13, San Miguel president Ramon S. Ang said the sale of the group's beer operations overseas could fetch between \$600 million to \$700 million.

Proceeds from the sale will be used to fund organic expansions and new acquisitions as the conglomerate diversifies into heavy industry such as power, infrastructure and utilities.

The original plan was to sell San Miguel's international beer operations to Japanese brewer Kirin Holdings Co. Ltd., which acquired a 43.249-percent stake in SMB for P59 billion or P8.841 each share. Even with the sale, San Miguel still holds a majority 51 percent interest in SMB, which pro-

duces and markets San Miguel Pale Pilsen, Red Horse, San Mig Light and five other affiliated brands.

San Miguel has been on a buying spree after selling several units to accumulate cash for new businesses with high growth potential.

Ang said the group continues to be on the lookout for acquisitions in several sectors including banking and mining. "Banking is okay for us as they entail minimal investments," he said.

Property unit San Miguel Properties and the San Miguel Corp. Retirement Plan raised their stake in medium-sized commercial bank Bank of Commerce to 51.1 percent after infusing an additional P2 billion into the bank.

Ang said the group expects to generate around \$100 million from the initial public offering of between 10 percent and 14 percent of its packaging unit this year to be used for its continued expansion. ■

Lopez to retain control of Meralco

by DORIS DURLAO
Inquirer.net

THE Lopez clan will retain management control of the country's largest power retailer, Manila Electric Co., "for a long, long time," San Miguel Corp. vice chairman Ramon Ang said last May 13.

Ang said SMC, which has 27-percent voting rights in Meralco, would also keep its stake "for a

long, long time" especially now that earnings prospects have been enhanced by the approval by regulators of performance-based rate for the utility.

He also reiterated that SMC's 27 percent was not for sale, amid speculation that Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. may be interested in buying it out. ■

DOE mulls inclusion of renewable energy projects in bidding rounds

TO further boost renewable energy development in the country, the Department of Energy (DOE) will likely include renewable energy projects in the Philippine Energy Contracting Round (PECR).

"We are studying that thoroughly," Energy Undersecretary Ramon Oca told reporters.

Oca said the DOE has been working to improve the data gathering process for renewable energy projects so it could determine their inclusion in the PECR.

For his part, Energy Utilization and Management Bureau head Mario Marasigan said the addition of RE projects in the PECR would help in the promotion of the projects.

Marasigan said this initiative may go in tandem with ongoing efforts to come out with the RE

law's implementing rules and regulation (IRR) by next month.

"We are still collecting data. After we complete this, we will see if these projects can be included in the PECR," he said.

Meanwhile, Oca said interested investors for coal projects have until June 8 this year to complete their requirements.

"We expect them to submit by the deadline because majority [of the coal projects] are nominated [by investors]," he added.

Earlier, Oca said they would have to study the impact of the RE law's IRR on geothermal development before launching PECR for geothermal exploration areas.

He noted that under the new law, some fiscal incentives have to be incorporated in the geothermal contracting round.

"Under the new Renewable

Energy Act, there are some amendments to the law especially in terms of incentives and fiscal regime, so we have to look at that, so we have to come up with a new model for the geothermal energy contracts. We should now incorporate the new provisions of the law," he said.

The new guidelines, he said, would also speed up the process of approval of the contracts.

This will effectively trim down the number of days that an approval of an exploration contract will be released.

The Philippine government has embarked on an aggressive development of the country's energy resources through improved contracting and bidding schemes and enhanced fiscal incentives in its quest to increase the country's energy self-sufficiency. ■

FREE PAC MAN BOBBLEHEAD!

Hall Of Fame Boxing Trainer Freddie Roach



FIGHTINGFIT.COM

Pound for Pound Weight Loss Champ

To commemorate the big win Freddie is giving ALL customers a full month supply & a Manny Pacquiao

Bobblehead for **Free!!**



- ✓ Caffeine Free
- ✓ 100% All Natural
- ✓ NO Crash & NO Jitters
- ✓ Permanent Weight Loss
- ✓ Satisfaction Guaranteed



Call Today

For Your FREE Bottle & Bobblehead!

Online Promo-Code: **FFManny**

866-326-0030 or www.FightingFit.com

Please consult with your physician before taking any nutritional supplements. If you are on any medications, check with your doctor before ingesting. These statements have not been evaluated by the FDA. This product is not intended to diagnose, treat, cure, or prevent any disease. Offer good while supplies last.



IMMIGRATION DANIELA KOIMAN

A tough economy should not prevent you from completing your case!

**Reasonable Prices
Convenient Payments
Speak personally to an attorney at
no extra charge**

- **Family Petitions**
- **Labor Petitions**
- **Citizenship Workshops**
(group of 8 or more)
- **Visas**
(students, fiances, business, H1b)



Atty. Daniela Koiman

Law Office of Daniela Koiman

20700 Ventura Boulevard Suite 230 Woodland Hills, California 91364

Tel: (818) 348-9200 • Fax: (818) 348-9225