



January 2, 2019

**MS. JANET A. ENCARNACION**

Head, Disclosure Department  
Philippine Stock Exchange, Inc.  
9<sup>th</sup> Floor, PSE Tower, Bonifacio Global City  
28<sup>th</sup> Street, cor. 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, BGC, Taguig City

Re: Clarification to the January 2, 2019 Inquirer.net News Article

Dear Ms. Encarnacion:

This refers to the letter from the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE) requesting Aboitiz Equity Ventures Inc. (AEV, or the “Company”) to confirm the veracity of the information contained in the Inquirer.net news article dated January 2, 2019 entitled “**Aboitiz Equity earmarks \$200M for Gold Coin**” a portion of which are quoted hereunder:

.....

*“Conglomerate Aboitiz Equity Ventures Inc. expects to invest as much as \$200 million in the next two to three years to expand and upgrade the factories of Asia-Pacific animal feeds manufacturer Gold Coin Management Holdings Ltd., its single largest overseas business to date.*

*AEV chief financial official Manuel Lozano said in an interview that the acquisition of Gold Coin was ‘quite exciting’ for the group but in the next two to three years, the focus would be its integration into the group, specifically, into agri-business unit Pilimco Foods Corp.*

*Lozano said the group was projecting to make additional investment of \$100 million to \$200 million, depending on actual requirements, to expand Gold Coin and make the business more efficient. ‘Some of it is for rehabilitation. Some, for expansion,’ he said.*

....

*‘We’re still looking for acquisition opportunities in related businesses,’ he said.*

*The acquisition could be other forms of animal nutrition, for instance more feeds or the same business in areas where the group would like to expand its footprint.*

*‘It could be a geographic fit for us, like in Vietnam, we have more (operations) on the south, so we (could) get more on the northern part, either the same feeds or it could be other animal feeds or on the R&D (research and development) side of it,’ he said.*

*The additional investment in Gold Coin could be funded by borrowings or internally generated cash, he said.*

....”

.....

We confirm the statements made by Mr. Lozano on AEV's plan to allocate additional investment to Gold Coin in order to fund the expansion and upgrade of its facilities, as well as the Company's inclination to acquire other related businesses.

However, we clarify that, as of this date, the details of (a) additional investments in Gold Coin (including the amounts needed and the timing therefor) and (b) the new acquisition opportunities on related businesses have yet to be identified and approved by the Company's Board of Directors. Rest assured that AEV will make the necessary disclosures once it has firm, and duly approved, investment plans related to the foregoing.

We trust that we have clarified the above-quoted news article to your satisfaction.

Very truly yours,

**ABOITIZ EQUITY VENTURES INC.**

By:

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joanne L. Ranada". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**JOANNE L. RANADA**

Assistant Corporate Secretary

Cc:

**MS. PAULA BEATRICE A. BUENO**

*OIC, Disclosure Department*

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