



May 4, 2023

*via PSE EDGE*

**PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE, INC.**  
PSE Tower, 28<sup>th</sup> Street, cor. 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue,  
Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City

ATTENTION : **MS. ALEXANDRA D. TOM WONG**  
Officer-in-Charge, Disclosure Department

*via electronic mail*

**PHILIPPINE DEALING & EXCHANGE CORP.**  
Market Regulatory Services Group  
29<sup>th</sup> Floor BDO Equitable Tower  
8751 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City

ATTENTION : **ATTY. MARIE ROSE M. MAGALLEN-LIRIO**  
Head - Issuer Compliance and Disclosures Department

Gentlemen:

Attached is the Press Release of Aboitiz Equity Ventures Inc. filed in compliance with the Securities Regulation Code, its 2015 Implementing Rules and Regulations, the Revised Disclosure Rules of the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE), and the Issuer Disclosure Operating Guidelines of the Philippine Dealing Exchange Corp. (PDEx).

Kindly acknowledge receipt hereof.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

**ABOITIZ EQUITY VENTURES INC.**

By:

  
**SAMMY DAVE A. SANTOS**  
Assistant Corporate Secretary

# COVER SHEET

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S.E.C. Registration Number

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( Company's Full Name )

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(Business Address: No. Street City / Town / Province )

MANUEL ALBERTO R. COLAYCO
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Contact Person

(02) 8 886-2338
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Company Telephone Number

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Month Day

Fiscal Year

1	7	-	C	
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FORM TYPE

4th Monday of April

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Month Day

Annual Meeting

N/A
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Secondary License Type, if Applicable

SEC
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Dept. Requiring this Doc

N/A
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Amended Articles Number/Section

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Total No. of Stockholders

x
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Domestic

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Foreign

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To be accomplished by SEC Personnel concerned

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File Number

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Cashier


STAMPS
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**Remarks** = Pls. use black ink for scanning purposes

SECURITIES & EXCHANGE COMMISSION

SEC FORM 17-C

CURRENT REPORT UNDER SECTION 17  
OF THE SECURITIES REGULATION CODE (SRC)  
AND SRC RULE 17.2(c) THEREUNDER

1. May 4, 2023  
Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported)
2. SEC Identification Number CEO2536 3. BIR TIN 003-828-269-V
4. ABOITIZ EQUITY VENTURES INC.  
Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter
5. Philippines 6.   
Province, country or other jurisdiction of incorporation Industry Classification Code
7. 32<sup>nd</sup> Street, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City, Metro Manila, Philippines 1634  
Address of principal office Postal Code
8. (02) 8 886-2800  
Registrant's telephone number, including area code
9. N.A.  
Former name or former address, if changed since last report
10. Securities registered pursuant to Sections 4 and 8 of the RSA
- | Title of Each Class                                   | Number of Shares of Common Stock<br>Outstanding and Amount of Debt Outstanding |
|---|--|
| <u>Common Stock P1 Par Value</u>                      | <u>5,630,225,457</u>   |
| <u>Amount of Debt Outstanding (December 31, 2022)</u> | <u>P376,767,527,000.00</u>   |
11. Indicate the item numbers reported herein: 11
- Item 11: Other Events**
- Please see attached press release.

SIGNATURE (S)

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Regulation Code, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

**ABOITIZ EQUITY VENTURES INC.**

By:



Sammy Dave A. Santos  
Assistant Corporate Secretary

Date: May 4, 2023

## PRESS RELEASE

04 May 2023

### **Aboitiz launches second Fresh Depot cold storage unit at Nueva Vizcaya Agricultural Terminal** *to help future-proof PH agriculture and empower farmers*



*Aboitiz launched its second Fresh Depot pilot site at Nueva Vizcaya Agricultural Terminal. In photo (L-R): Fresh Depot Co-Project Lead Aly Virrey, NVAT Chairman James Estong, SN Aboitiz Power President and CEO Joseph Yu, UnionDigital Chief Marketing Officer Munmun Nath, Aboitiz Chief Transformation Officer Emilie Sydney-Smith, Nueva Vizcaya Governor Carlos M. Padilla, NVAT General Manager Gilbert L. Cumila, Department of Trade and Industry - Region 2 - Nueva Vizcaya Provincial Director Marietta Salviejo, Department of Agriculture - Region 2 High Value Focal Carol Albay, Municipality of Kayapa representative Valdez Duntugan, one of NVAT's Founding Directors Virgilio Tiongson, Fresh Depot Agri-FinTech Consultant Arvind Kumar TJ, and Fresh Depot Co Project Lead Lester Gimeno.*

Following the successful introduction of its first pilot cold storage unit in Benguet, Aboitiz Group's Fresh Depot has launched its second pilot unit in Nueva Vizcaya Agricultural Terminal (NVAT), one of the country's biggest trading centers located in the Cagayan Valley region. Fresh Depot seeks to contribute to the country's food sustainability by providing a physical and digital platform for farmers, with cold storage as its springboard.

With Fresh Depot's innovative pilot unit, farmers and traders can now efficiently store their surplus produce and preserve its freshness until it reaches the market. This groundbreaking

solution aims to significantly reduce food wastage and enhance the food supply chain in the Philippines. Moreover, Fresh Depot seeks to provide value-adding services, such as establishing a comprehensive database that the government can leverage to enhance their agricultural initiatives.

Emilie Sydney-Smith, Aboitiz Equity Ventures Chief Transformation Officer, explained how Fresh Depot can become a game changer for Philippine agriculture. “Filipino farmers face so many challenges, it can be hard to know where to start. When we saw that cold storage technology could prevent around half of their crops from spoiling between harvest and consumption, this was an obvious answer. Getting paid for most, not half, of their production means that farmers will soon be able to invest in other products that can create a virtuous cycle in their prosperity. Digitally tracking the cold storage usage means we can also help the government understand how they can better support farmers.”

Among those present at the launch were Hon. Carlos M. Padilla, Governor of the Province of Nueva Vizcaya; Department of Agriculture Region 2 representative Carol Albay; DTI Region 2 Provincial Representative Dr Marieta B. Salviejo; Bambang Mayor’s office representative Coun. Dr. Arnel Magdirila; Municipality of Kayapa Representative Valdez Duntugan; NVAT Chairman James Estong, NVAT General Manager Gilbert Cumila, Aboitiz Group Chief Transformation Officer Emilie Sydney-Smith, SN Aboitiz Power President and CEO Joseph Yu, Union Digital Chief Marketing Officer Munmun Nath, and Fresh Depot Agri-FinTech Consultant Arvind Kumar TJ.



*NVAT is a major vegetable trading hub in Region 2. Photo courtesy of NVAT.*



NVAT serves as a major vegetable trading hub for farmers, traders, and buyers from different parts of Luzon. It was established and registered in the Securities and Exchange Commission in December 2001. The Provincial Government of Nueva Vizcaya was the majority stockholder from 2005 to 2013. By 2015, the private sectors had gained the majority shares of the corporation. At present, 85.29% shares are owned by the private sectors and the remaining 14.71% shares are owned by the government.

Gilbert Cumila, General Manager of NVAT, is proud to participate in Fresh Depot's groundbreaking pilot. "We are happy to be collaborating with Aboitiz on Fresh Depot's pilot program. As part of NVAT and a farmer myself, I see a lot of potential in providing this facility to farmers and traders, enabling them to preserve their fresh produce's quality before they are brought to the consumption market. This will also open doors to digitize farm data. We are equally committed to make this project a success to help prepare the country's agricultural sector for the future."



*Fresh Depot and Aboitiz Team with Bambang Mayor's office representative, Coun. Dr. Arnel Magdirila*

For its pilot project, Fresh Depot is also collaborating with two leading international agri-tech players: Ecozen Solutions Pvt. Ltd., which is backed by Nuveen global impact fund USA and EXIM

Bank of Government of India, and Cropin Technology Solutions Pvt. Ltd., which is backed by Impact Assets Singapore, as one of its investors. Fresh Depot was also one of five global initiatives selected by the Basel Agency for Sustainable Energy (BASE) to receive free support to test and deploy its Coldtivate app and benefit from its global network. The project aims to combat global supply chain issues, rising inflation, and weather events by maximizing harvests and optimizing food supply.

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### **About Aboitiz Equity Ventures**

Aboitiz Equity Ventures, Inc. (AEV) is the public holding company of the Aboitiz Group with major investments in power, banking and financial services, food, infrastructure, and land. Today, AEV is recognized as one of the best-managed companies in the Philippines and in the region, consistently cited for its commitment to good corporate governance and corporate social responsibility. With five generations of Aboitiz Group business success behind it, AEV continues to drive change for a better world by advancing business and communities.

For further queries on this Press Release, please contact:

**LLOYD C. REVILLA**

Media Relations Manager

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