

July 21, 2014

**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

SEC Building, EDSA Greenhills,  
Mandaluyong City, Metro Manila

ATTENTION : **DIR. VICENTE GRACIANO P. FELIZMENIO JR.,**  
Director, Markets and Securities Regulation Department

**PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE, INC.**

3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Philippine Stock Exchange Plaza  
Ayala Triangle, Ayala Avenue  
Makati City

ATTENTION : **MS. JANET ENCARNACION**  
Head, Disclosure Department

**PHILIPPINE DEALING & EXCHANGE CORP.**

Market Regulatory Services Group  
37/F, Tower 1, The Enterprise Center  
6766 Ayala Avenue corner Paseo de Roxas  
Makati City

ATTENTION : **MS. VINA VANESSA S. SALONGA**  
Head – Issuer Compliance and Disclosures Department

Gentlemen:

We file herewith the SEC Form 17-C (Current Report) of Aboitiz Equity Ventures, Inc. in compliance with the Commission's directive.

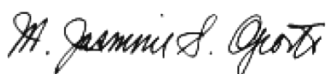
Kindly acknowledge receipt hereof.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

**ABOITIZ EQUITY VENTURES, INC.**

By



**M. JASMINE S. OPORTO**  
Corporate Secretary

**COVER SHEET**

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S.E.C. Registration Number

A	B	O	I	T	I	Z	E	Q	U	I	T	Y	V	E	N	T	U	R	E	S	,	I	N	C	.		

( Company's Full Name )

3	2	N	D	S	T	R	E	E	T	,	B	O	N	I	F	A	C	I	O	G	L	O	B	A	L			
C	I	T	Y	,	T	A	G	U	I	G	C	I	T	Y	,	M	E	T	R	O	M	A	N	I	L	A	,	
P	H	I	L	I	P	P	I	N	E	S																		

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

M. JASMINE S. OPORTO
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Contact Person

(02) 793-2729
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Company Telephone Number

1	2		3	1
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Month Day

Fiscal Year

**Current Report**

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FORM TYPE

0	5		1	9
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Month Day

Annual Meeting

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Secondary License Type, if Applicable

S	E	C
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Dept. Requiring this Doc

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Amended Articles Number/Section

9,587
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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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Document I.D.

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Cashier

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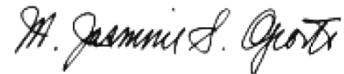


SIGNATURE (S)

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Jasmine S. Oporto". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**M. JASMINE S. OPORTO**

Corporate Secretary

Date: July 21, 2014



**PRESS RELEASE**  
**July 21, 2014**

**Ayala- Aboitiz asks Palace to dismiss CALAX appeal**

AC Infrastructure Holdings Corporation and Aboitiz Land, Inc., members of the Team Orion (Orion) consortium that submitted the highest complying bid for the Cavite-Laguna Expressway Project, together filed with the Office of the President a Comment on the Memorandum of Appeal put forward by Optimal Infrastructure Development, Inc. (Optimal) last June 27, 2014.

Optimal was disqualified from the bidding of the CALAX project after it submitted an erroneous and deficient bid security last June 2, 2014. Optimal acknowledged in its own Memorandum of Appeal that it indeed submitted an erroneous and defective bid. Optimal filed the Appeal two weeks after it was disqualified by the Special Bids and Awards Committee (SBAC) on the basis of this error and defect. The SBAC issued its Resolution disqualifying Optimal on June 11, 2014 (the "Resolution").

Through counsel, Orion raises the following points:

1. Optimal cannot be allowed to undo and reset the bidding process simply by its own announcement of its alleged bid, given that it is non-verifiable and legally non-existent, "a bid that was returned unopened and that was, in a manner of speaking, officially dead, especially after Appellant [Optimal] spoiled it as evidence."
2. Public policy and the dictates of transparency and good governance demand strict compliance with the bidding rules.
3. The sanctity and integrity of the PPP framework and bidding process must be protected, lest confidence in the process is undermined.
4. Optimal forfeited its right to question the Resolution by its failure to appeal prior to its implementation and by its compliance with the Resolution through its appearance before the SBAC and acceptance of its Technical and Financial Bid in compliance with the Resolution. Optimal did not follow the legal process and went to the media to announce its alleged bid. It appealed to the Office of the President two weeks after its disqualification has been implemented and after public opinion has not resulted in the acceptance of the alleged bid, a result which Optimal now seeks from the Office of the President.

Based on the Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) Law that governs the bidding of the CALAX project and all other Public Private Partnership projects, if a bidder fails to comply with any of the requirements of the bid, its financial proposal should be returned unopened and the bidder shall be disqualified from further participating in the bidding, regardless of whatever its bid amount might have been. This is the very purpose of the multi-stage bidding process being followed by the DPWH and the SBAC to help them determine the best available bid and prevent their judgment from being clouded by financial considerations.

The winner in a public bidding is not merely the bidder with the highest bid amount, but rather the bidder with the "highest complying bid". The other bidders who participated, namely, the Metro Pacific Group and MTD Malaysia, both submitted bids that were compliant with the requirements and followed the rules. Optimal was the only participating bidder that failed to meet the requirements, and as a result, it was disqualified from further participating in the opening of the financial bid.

Consistent with bidding procedures and rules governing disqualification, the SBAC returned to Optimal, its unreviewed Technical envelope and unopened Financial Bid which the latter accepted last June 13, 2014. That same day, the SBAC opened the financial bids of the three other qualified bidders, namely Orion, Metro Pacific Group and MTD Malaysia. Orion submitted the highest qualified and compliant bid.

According to Team Orion spokesperson Mr. Roman Azanza III, "We filed a Motion to Intervene with Malacañang because we want our voice to be heard on this very important matter. We believe that nobody or no entity should ever be allowed to undermine the bidding process. There are rules and procedures that must be followed in a public bidding. If we do not follow it, and if we let errant participants act outside of the rules of a public bidding process, then the whole process will lose credibility."

Mr. Azanza added, "We stand more to lose as a nation if we do not respect our own bidding rules and procedures. There remain nearly P900 billion worth of PPP infrastructure projects that will still have to be bid out to investors because government alone cannot undertake these projects. We need to keep the hard-earned confidence of investors in the stability and integrity of our public bidding process. Losing the confidence of investors would certainly have more of a "chilling effect on the Philippine economy", particularly if any disqualified bidder could, after being disqualified and after the bidding process itself has been concluded, force to change the results by simply proclaiming a bid that, because of its own actions, cannot be verified to be existent in the first place."

Following the Motion to Intervene filed by Team Orion, Malacañang is expected to study the matter and come to a decision shortly.

For further queries on this Press Release, please contact:

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**0917 3013469**